





DELAY can spell ruin to a circus. And delay can be costly and annoying to anyone—doctor, lawyer, merchant, chief, salesman, or Mrs. Jones on her way to the bridge game.

That's why so many thousands of car owners depend on the 40-point Marfak Lubrication Service and know their cars are always in fine running order.

Here's why: the man who renders this service has been specially schooled so he inti-

mately knows just how to lubricate every make and model of car. Furthermore, he works with a Texaco "Chek-Chart" in front of him so he can't miss a trick—from waterpump to shackles. As for Marfak itself—it's the toughest, longest-lasting lubricant yet made for cars—made from heavy-bodied oils so it lasts twice as long.

You'll be surprised how little this service costs—how much peace-of-mind it brings—how often it actually increases the trade-in value of your car.

TEXACO DEALERS INVITE YOU to tune in THE TEXACO STAR THEATRE—A full hour of all-

star entertainment—Every Wednesday Night— Columbia Network—9:00 E.D.T., 8:00 E.S.T., 8:00 C.D.T., 7:00 C.S.T., 6:00 M.S.T., 5:00 P.S.T.

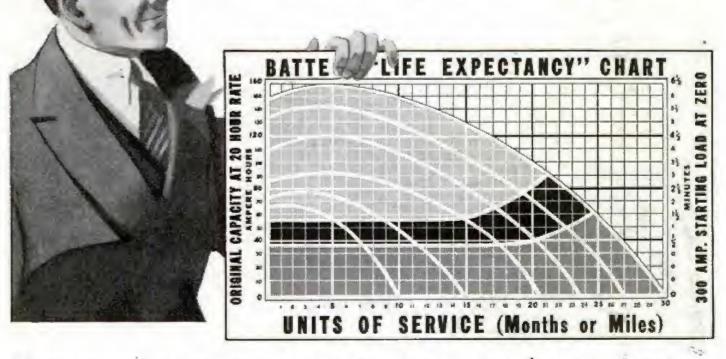
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THE 40-POINT LUBRICATION AT ALL TEXACO AND OTHER GOOD DEALERS

WE TOOK A TIP

from the life insurance companies



Now you can protect yourself against battery failure

You know what insurance actuary tables are like . . . the sheets that show the probable period of life remaining for people of various ages. The figures in these tables are averages, based on accurate statistics compiled throughout the years.

To make it possible for you to protect yourself against battery failure, the manufacturer of Delco batteries adopted this same principle in preparing the Battery "Life Expectancy" Chart. Information was gathered on thousands of batteries at various periods of service, and plotted into chart form to show at a glance the probable life left in a battery at any point of service.

For instance, if your battery is a 110-amperehour battery, you simply find that curve on the chart and follow it until it is intersected by the vertical line indicating the units of service the battery has given.

The chart then shows you at what point your battery enters the "uncertain zone" where it should be replaced, and at what point it enters the "danger zone" where it is likely to give out entirely any day.

Remember, the Battery "Life Expectancy" Chart is based on averages, which means it is correct in a great majority of cases. You can save yourself the annoyance and worry of battery failure by stopping at your Delco battery dealer's and checking your battery with him on the chart.

Delco batteries are built to meet the exacting demands of the manufacturers of all General Motors cars and trucks. As the preferred replacement battery, Delco provides sure starting power for all makes of cars.



Delco-Remy

Delco battery sales and service requirements are available at United Motors Service Stations and dealers everywhere.



World's Largest Manufacturer of Automotive Electrical Equipment



He's Carrying Quite a Load

Taxes are necessary—you couldn't run a city, state or government without them. But they do mount up.

Fact is, a considerable part of the money you pay us for telephone service goes right out in taxes.

Bell System taxes for 1938 were about \$147,400,000 an increase of 56% in three years. In 1938 taxes were:

Equal to about \$550 a year per employee

Equal to \$9.50 per telephone in the Bell System

Equal to \$7.54 per share of A. T. & T. common stock

BELL TELEPHONE SYSTEM

You are cordially invited to visit the Bell System exhibit at the Golden Gate International Exposition, San Francisco



Popular Mechanics Magazine

H. H. WINDSOR, Founder

H. H. WINDSOR, Jr., Editor and Publisher

June, 1939

Vol. 71, No. 6

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Robots Run the World

YOU can't get away from these electric brains that are running the world. They pilot airplanes and match paints, they count the pills dropping into a medicine bottle. They stand guard at prison gates to frisk visitors for hidden metal. They listen to the ticking of watches on a production line and toss aside the watch with a faulty heartbeat. The weatherman on flood duty dials a number, then listens while an electric robot reports how high Old Man River is running today. Read in the July issue how man has harnessed electricity not only to do his work, but to do his thinking too.

Logging Goes Modern

HIGH up in a 200-foot fir the "steeplejack" thrusts his saw in for a last bite, and the crown of the big tree tilts, cracks, then crashes to earth leaving the woodsman clinging for life to the swaying trunk. That's one of the few jobs left to muscle in the modernized logging industry, whose story is told next month with eight pages of Coloroto pictures.

Next Month

A IRPLANE builders have been so busy turning out luxurious sky liners and transoceanic clippers, super-bombers and sixmile-a-minute fighting planes that industry has had to shop for secondhand ships to fly plain freight. But now several companies are to build flying boxcars, and soon the United States may catch up with Canada in air freight. An article next month predicts that shortly we shall move millions of tons instead of millions of pounds in flying boxcars.

Scientific Sherlocks

BOMBS sent by mail should do their deadly work and leave no trace of the sender, the murderer thought. But the "mail order" killer reckoned without scientific crime detection. Fragments of the bomb—splintered wood, nails and glue—were sent to the "laboratory detectives"; test tube and microscope gave expert testimony, and the killer was found guilty. An article in the July issue tells you how modern Sherlocks battle "perfect crimes."

Painting the World

A NCIENT Egypt knew how to varnish mummy cases to last thirty centuries, but we know a lot more about paints today than Cleopatra's decorators ever imagined. We even make white paint for Cape Cod cottages from black sand! If you want to know what day to paint your house, how to estimate gallons and what paint to use, read "Painting the World in New Colors" in next month's issue.

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WHY NOT GET ALL* THE SMOOTHNESS AND POWER YOUR ENGINE WILL DELIVER

lose some of its original smoothness and power? Does it seem to falter when you want to step up speed?

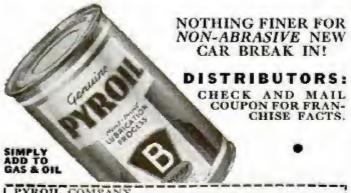
Has your car begun to

If you could peek inside your engine you would see why this condition commonly exists—EYEN IN CARS FAIRLY NEW. One reason is (1) faulty valve action due to accumulations of carbon and sticky gum. This makes engine action rough, jerky. These same cement-like binders weaken the resiliency of (2) piston rings. Oil then seeps into the combustion chamber. Spark plugs are fouled. Power is lost. Corrosion (acid attack), on (3) piston faces and cylinder walls as well as on (4) bearings, actually "eats" the metal away, causing additional troubles. Needed repairs soon follow.

Pyroil is a product designed to overcome these faults in the operation of your car. It is an unduplicated combination of pure olliness elements—unlike your regular lubricant, to breaks up hard carbon. Removes gum and sludge, PRE-VENTS CORROSION. Only a few ounces of Pyroil are needed in the gasoline tank and the crankcase.

Whether your car is new or old, get the FULL benefit of its smoothness and power. Treat your car with Pyroil at once. It is sold the world over at up to date service stations, garages, accessory stores. Mall coupon below for interesting Free Booklet. "QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT PYROIL", Manufactured and Guaranteed by Pyroil Company, W. V. Kidder, Founder, 56 Pyroil Bldg., LaCrosse, Wisconsin, U. S. A.

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Engineers Spent Years on the Trail of this Mistery Smark





They produced a revolutionary spark plug that is amazing car owners by putting new pickup and power into sluggish, spark-weary motors

CONDUCTING countless experiments, combing the world for special materials, Auto-Lite engineers produced a new kind of spark plug. They created a new alloy—called Konium—for the electrode, developed a new insulating compound called Ziramic.

The result? A spark plug of amazing powers that gives sluggish engines sure starting, instant pickup, prevents gasoline waste.

Nearly a million motorists changed to Auto-Lite Spark Plugs last year. Why not begin at once to enjoy the great advantages they offer—all at no extra cost? Ask your service man to install a set of Auto-Lites today!

THE ELECTRIC AUTO-LITE CO.
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One Out of Every4 new cars is now factory-equipped with Auto-Lite Spark Plugs. Car manufacturers, users of conventional type plugs for years, adopted Auto-Lites after the most exhaustive tests.

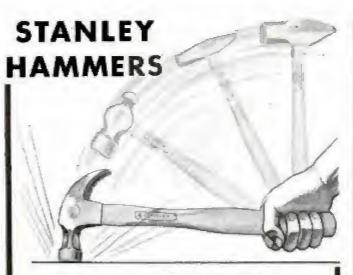
IGNITION ENGINEERED BY

They Tailored a Flash of Lightning—The spark of an Auto-Lite Spark Plug is like a tiny flash of lightning made to order by means of a special gap design and new type electrode.

They Combed the World - Materials from all over the face of the earth are required to produce this sensational new spark plug.

PICKUP WITH A LITTO-LITE SPARK PLUGS

WIO-LITE



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The 26 best of the hundreds of entries in the recent Stanley project contest. You'll want to build every one of them. Complete working plans, on separate sheets of tough paper—sent postpaid for only 50c. Send coin or stamps now for the new Stanley Plan Packet.

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Plan Your Future

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Mr. Salesman: What's Wrong?

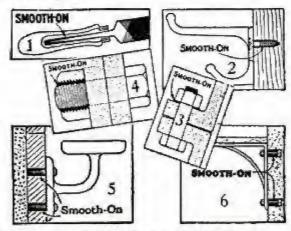
Why aren't you making more sales-more money? Is it you—or your proposition? Check up first on yourself. Other men—no better than you—have found their carnings jump and stay up when they trained with LaSalle. Literally thousands of men—many of them years at the game—have increased their sales volume and carnings through home study with LaSalle guid-ance. Sound—practical—usable—right from field experience. Train for top-notch production with LaSalle.

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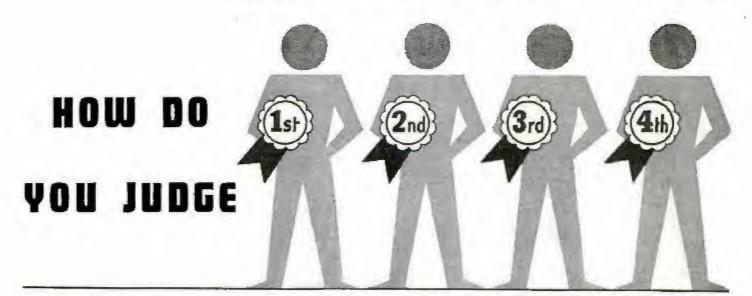
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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Timesaving ideas for artists

Ruling parallel chalk lines

It is the intention of this magazine to provide its readers with information regarding the latest developments in the mechanical arts. We take no responsibility as to whether the disclosures contained in our articles are covered by patents and advise readers to investigate this subject before making, using, or selling any of the products, machines, or processes described, in order to avoid possible liability for patent infringement.



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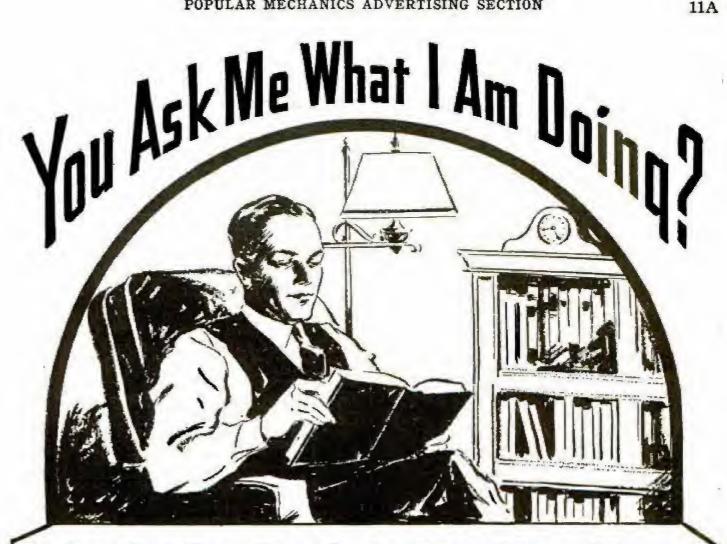
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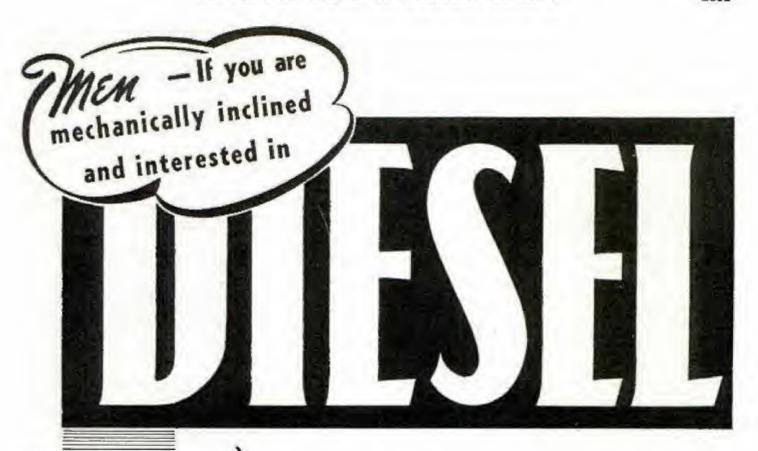
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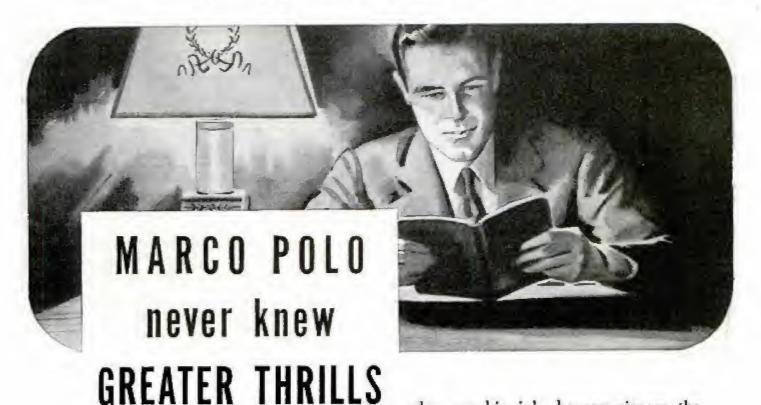
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Radio broadcasting stations employ engineers, opera-tors, etation managers and pay well for trained men-Fixing Radio sets in eyare time pays many \$200 men. \$500 a year—full time joby as march as \$30, \$50, \$75 a week. Many Radio Experts open full or part time Radio rales and repuir businesses. Radio manu-lacturers and jobbers employ testers, impertors, integen, engineers servicement is good-pay jobs with apportunities for xdvancement. Automobile, police, aviation, commercial Radio, loud speaker systems offer good opportunities and a future. Television promises to open many good jobs com. Men I trained have good jobs in these branches of Radio.

Many Make \$5, \$10, \$15 a Week Extra in Spare Time While Learning

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PROVIDING protection against smoke and fumes, as well as a new degree of freedom in movement of the head, a firefighting suit complete with its own airfiltering system has been patented. The



filter cartridge is strapped around the waist and connected to the head hood by a flexible tube. The hood, large enough for the wearer to move his head freely, has a flexible face piece with an elongated opening covered by a lens.

VIRTUALLY every muscle in the body is called into play by an exercising



device patented recently. The apparatus occupies little space. It consists of a frame within a frame and a foot-driven gear arrangement for rotating the outer frame and

the inner frame simultaneously, thus providing a new thrill as well as a means of exercise. The operator supports himself by gripping a bar at the top of the inner frame. Rotation of the two frames is effected by the pedals at the bottom of the inner frame.

KEEPING milk fresh in warm weather for any long period is a problem for

the farmer who sends his product to market in large cans. A recent invention provides a means of introducing a cooling medium that helps to preserve the milk. Into the milk



can is built a channel extending downward to the bottom of the can. Ice, or Dry Ice, could be employed in the channel to cool the fluid sufficiently to prevent souring over longer periods than is possible under present methods of handling.

I NTENDED to improve the grip on a golf club, a new sport device has been pat-



ented. It consists of a doubled or folded strip of absorbent material so arranged that it constitutes a loop just large enough to accommodate the thumb and first finger of one

hand. When the hand grips the club, the loop restricts flexure of the thumb, resulting in a better grip.

(Continued to page 21A)



Have you ever dreamed of holding down a steady, good pay job? Have you ever dreamed of doing the work you really like in a job that holds promise of a real future in the years ahead?

Well, we all know that you can't get the good things in life by just dreaming about them. Hundreds of fellows are

today holding down mighty fine jobs with prospects of a bright future. They are filling these jobs be-cause they had the foresight to

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a real future to many men and young men who are willing to prepare for a place in this giant industry.

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NEW INVENTIONS

(Continued from page 18A)

IGHT watchmen, police and others employed in guardian capacities would



find handy a newly patented flashlight designed to be attached to a pistol. The light is arranged so that its beam is parallel to the line of sight along the barrel of the pistol. The

battery case is clipped to the gun barrel, ready for instant operation. Attachment of flashlamp to the weapon would allow the watchman to open or try doors with one hand while he holds the pistol in the other.

DREVENTION of window frosting in the automobile is the purpose of a handy

little fan patented recently. The fan is attached to a movable portion of the instrument panel, so that it may be concealed back of the panel when not in use. This is accom-



plished simply by pushing the movable portion downward and forward, closing it flush with the panel. The fan operates like other defrosting fans, creating air circulation to prevent condensation of moisture on the glass windshield.

TO PREVENT fractious cattle from attempting to break through fences, or



other barriers, an animal yoke has been patented recently. It consists of a collar with a pair of arms extending forward and then curving inward. The arms end in points.

Thus, when the cow tries to butt a fence or the barn door, the pointed ends of the yoke are forced against her head, causing pain.

(Continued to page 27A)

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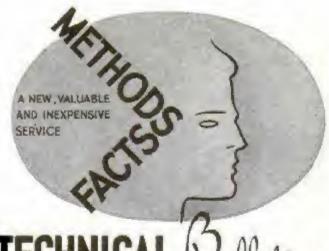
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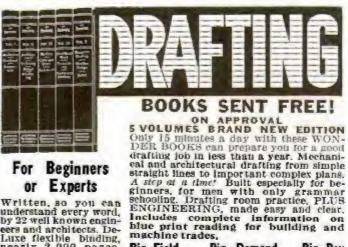
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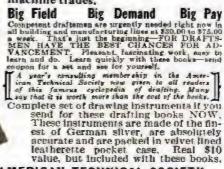


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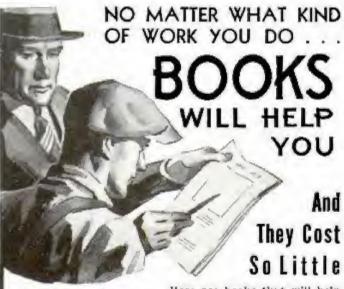


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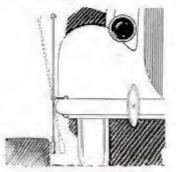
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NEW INVENTIONS a 36 3

(Continued from page 21A)

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could be eliminated by equipping the automobile with an obstruction indicator patented recently. The device is a vertical rod attached to the right end of the front

bumper. The lower end contacts the curbstone if the car approaches too closely and a ball on the upper end, visible to the driver, shows the proximity of the wheel to the curbing.

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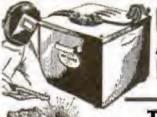
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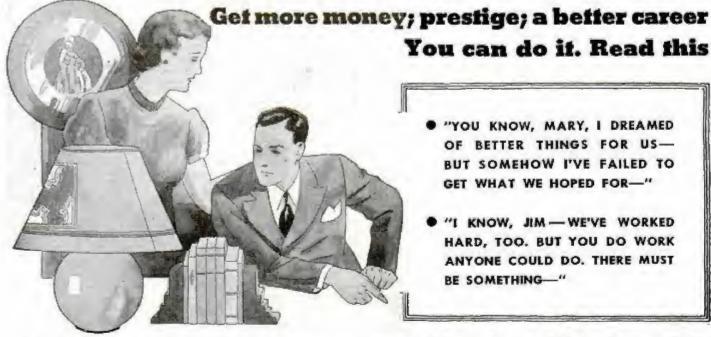
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(Original letter on file in our office)

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BIG Money applying initials on auto-mobiles. Write for particulars and free samples. American Letter Company, Dept. 40. Dunellen. New Jersey.

FREE Sample—Amazing cleaner; sells homes, taverns, everywhere. Big profit— fast repeater. Betco, 5007 Irving Park, Chicago.

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AGENTS: Stamping names on pocket-key address, 25c. Stamping names on pocket-key address, 25c. Stamping outfits. Emblem checks, check-fobs, name plates. Hart Mfg. Co., 303 Degraw St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

DO You want agents for your proposi-tion? Your ad in this space will place your message before hundreds of men seeking fast-selling products. My folder "How to Secure Agents," is filled with proof. I'll gladly send you a copy free. F. W. John-son, Manager Classified Advertising, Pop-ular Mechanics Magazine, 200 E. Ontario St., Chicago.

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Co., 7530 Greenwood, Dept. M-6, Chicago.

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SCREWLESS Attachment plug. Mar-aret Dudte, 2102 Colorado Ave., Colorado garet Dudte. Springs, Colorado.

AUDIBLE Whistle, Fits any milking machine and signals when cows have finished milking. Costs two dollars, sells for twenty. Eliminates ruining cows. Makes machine fool proof. When demonstrated sells itself. Sale outright reasonable or royalty. Philip Martin, Rt. 1, Box 109, Riverdale, Calif.

PENDING. Decorative safe hed bin, in-kponsive. T. Fukuda, 10212 Lake St., expensive. Salinas, Calif.

SELL Your patent through a small classified ad in Popular Mechanics. Many inventors have found buyers in this way. Ask me for proof—I'll gladly send it to you. F. W. Johnson. Manager Classified Advertising, 200 E. Ontario St., Chicago.

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MANUFACTURING, Dies, machiners, models, brasswork, mouldmakers, catalog 3c, Haum's Metal Specialties, Kansas City, Mo.

DEMONSTRATION Models built, ideas developed, blue prints drawn. Write for details, R. & S. Engineering Co., Dept. FP, 17 East 42nd Street, New York City.

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CASH For used microscopes, binoculars, cameras, slide rules, drawing sets, surveying, mechanical, and scientific instruments. Highest prices paid day shipment received. Satisfaction guaranteed or shipment promptly returned. Elman's, 2302 Van Buren, Chicago.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Michigan.

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POSTCARD Collectors: 40 scenic Callfornia. Two mailed weekly 20 weeks \$1.00. Two samples 10c. Porter's 403-M East Seaside. Long Beach. Callf.

MONEY In butterflies, moths. See Sinclair Display Advertisement on page 16A.

GUARANTEED Work socks. 6 pair

GUARANTEED Work socks, 6 pair guaranteed 6 months \$1,00. Standard col-ors, All sizes, Postage prepaid. C.O.D, or money orders, Quality Hoslery, States-ville, N. C.

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30 SHEETS And 30 envelopes printed with your name and address. 25 cents. Menten, 9313D Glenwood Road, Brooklyn, N. Y.

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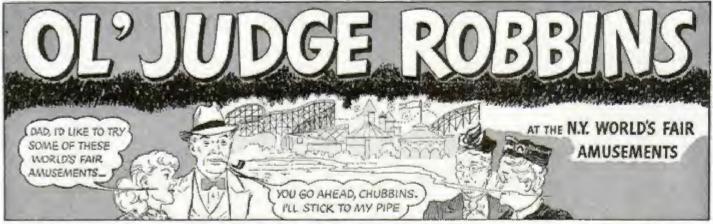


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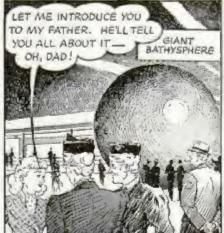
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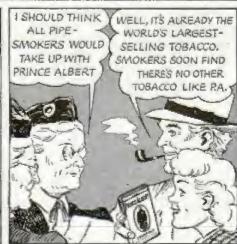














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pipefuls of fragrant tobacco in every pocket tin of Prince Albert



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PRINGE ALBERT THE NATIONAL JOY SMOKE

A REMINDER TO TRY P. A.

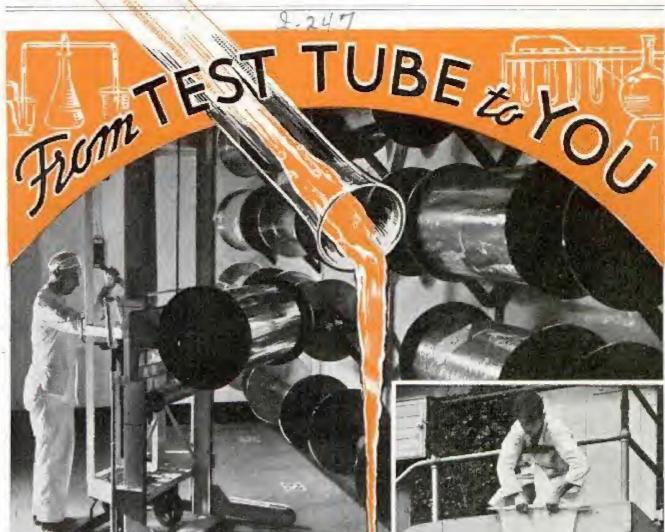
Smoke 20 fragrant pipefuls of Prince Albert. If you don't find it the mellowest, tastiest pipe tobacco you ever smoked, return the pocket tin with the rest of the tobacco in it to us at any time within a month from this date, and we will refund full purchase price, plus postage.

(Signed) R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Popular Mechanics Magazine

WRITTEN SO YOU CAN UNDERSTAND IT

JUNE, 1939 No. 6 Vol. 71



Above, storage vault where giant rolls of film are kept before being sensitized. Right, testing plastic for safety glass

arlen. By LAMMOT DU PONT

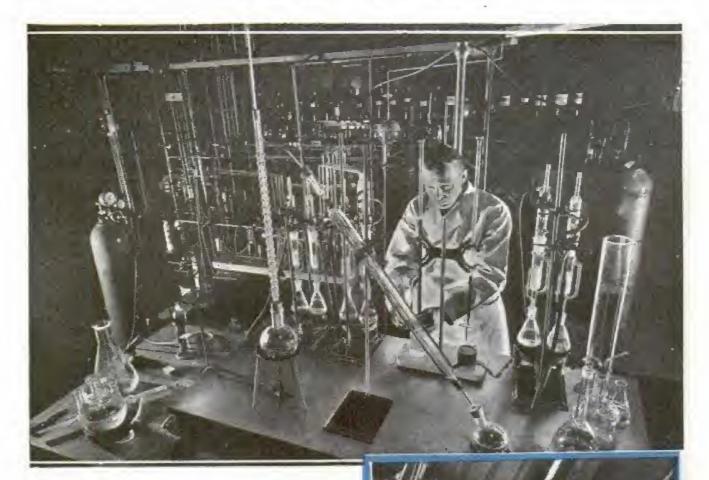
President, E. J. du Pont de Nemours & Company

Witnington Clef T HAPPENED May 7, 1794, in Paris. Antoine Laurent Lavoisier, France's most talented chemist, stood before the Revolutionary Tribunal to receive the death sentence. "The Republic has no need of scientists," said the court in passing sentence.

Lavoisier died, but the spirit of science lived. Chemistry, especially, was destined to bring immeasurable benefits to humanity developing progressively in Europe in the century that followed the execution of Lavoisier and advancing phenomenally in this country in the last twenty



801



years. Today, American chemical industry and industries based on chemistry have become so important that they employ one-fifth of all factory workers and onefourth of all industrial capital investments.

Chemistry underlies not only such patently chemical industries as the manufacture of acids, alkalis, dyestuffs, explosives, and plastics, but also such giant industries

as leather tanning, petroleum refining, pulp and papermaking, the smelting of metals, and soapmaking.

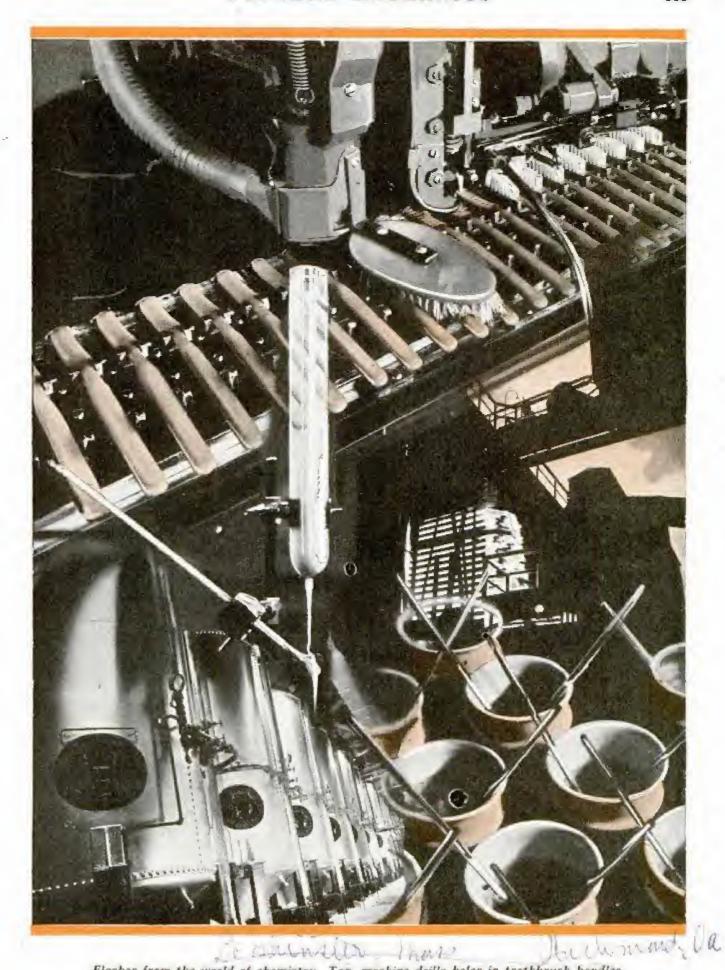
How does chemistry work? If you expect magic, you will be disappointed. Rather, the chemist pursues his work methodically, carefully investigating one possibility after another, much as a salesman calls on a list of prospective customers.

Day after day, perhaps month after month, he seemingly makes no progress. Finally, he comes upon an idea that



Top, the chemist at work in U. S. Rubber company laboratories. Center, "cyclones" used to recover powdered vinyl acetal resin from the air. Bottom, kiln for firing decorated gluss and pottery

Cerch andry y



Flashes from the world of chemistry. Top, machine drills holes in toothbrush handles, inserts bristles and anchors them automatically. Center, liquid viscose dripping from white tube. Right, incandescent coke being pushed out of ovens. Bottom, left, aging tanks used in manufacture of "Cellophane" cellulose film. Right, porcelain pots, glass rods and textile yarns in dye bath



seems worth while. It is only an idea, however, proved solely in the test tube. The idea must be developed on progressively larger scales, until it can be operated as a factory process. Supplies of raw material must be assured; outlets determined; and the product introduced to the public.

In a few instances, such developments require only a year or two; in other instances sometimes ten, twenty or even more years elapse. For example, Count de Chardonnet's first experiments with rayon were recorded in 1884. It was not until 1911, however, that the first American plant produced rayon. Knowledge, materials and manpower are not sufficient. Money equally is needed. Usually the amount runs into the hundreds of thousands, sometimes millions of dollars, before a commercially suitable product is achieved.

Most of us are aware that the chemist has produced new products and has improved existing products. We are conscious of beautiful chemical plastics, the durable lacquer finishes on the automobile and refrigerator, the gleaming transparent wrapping material, the rainbow of man-made colors from coal tar, and fabrics fashioned from rayon.

But what of the significance of these things to the nation?

Consider our natural resources. The chemist has aided in conserving natural resources by developing synthetic products to supplement or wholly replace natural products.

By heat cracking, approximately twice as much gasoline is obtained from crude oil as formerly by distillation which means the doubling of our oil reserves so far as gasoline is concerned. Research has gone even further by developing processes



Top, lathe-turning operation on "Lucite," one of the newerplastics. Center, research laboratory of Krebs Pigments department of the du Pont company. Bottom, roll of "Cellophane" cellulose film being inspected and weighed after being prepared according to customer's specifications

(RULEST)

for making motor fuel from refinery gases, heretofore wasted.

Synthetic plastics find application in fabricating a wide variety of articles, many of which in the past were made from natural products. The synthetic plastics are used in making toiletware, costume jewelry, ash trays, unbreakable tableware, electrical appliances, lighting equipment, dental plates, buttons and buckles, scuffless shoe heels, mouthpieces for pipes and cigarette holders, windows for airplanes, motionpicture film, radio cabinets, automobile accessories and reflectors which contribute to safe driving at night by clearly outlining the highway for a half-mile or more.

Laminated plastics, made by combining sheets of plastic-impregnated cloth or paper under high pressure at an elevated temperature, possess great strength and accordingly are used in mak-



solvent recovery still used in manufacture of new acetal resin

Gas Mask for Small Child Provides Airtight Seal



Baby wearing hood that is impervious to poison gas.

Mother pumps fresh air into the sealed chamber

Parents in England can now get masks to protect their infants against poison gas in case of war. Designed for babies up to two years of age, the helmet covers the entire upper portion of the body and straps closely about the waist. A constant supply of fresh air is pumped into the chamber by a hand-operated bellows.

Three-Stage Light-Bulb Adapter Fits Any Lamp Socket

Any electric-lamp or light fixture with the standard socket can be made to take



Three-stage light socket adapter at right is standard size and screws into any ordinary lamp outlet

the more modern bulbs of three light stages, by simply plugging in an adapter with special contacts for double-base bulbs and a three-way switch. This adds less than two inches to the length of the socket, but small lamp shades may be screwed onto the adapter so the bulbs will not project outside them. The original pull-chain or switch can be used, since it is possible to adjust the unit to its most used stage and let it so remain until more or less light is needed for unusual circumstances. Three sizes of bulbs readily obtainable for the adapter include the following watt ranges: 20-40-60, 40-60-100, and 50-100-150.

Corn Popper Operated by Coin Makes Bagful at a Time

Corn is freshly popped and automatically poured into a bag by a coin-in-the-slot machine that takes only about sixty sec-



Customer holding the bag at mouth of vending machine that sells hot popcorn like chewing gum

onds for the full series of operations. Corn is heated to 400 degrees Fahrenheit in a bath of vegetable compound, and after popping is completed the finished product is conveyed to the pouring spout where the buyer holds a bag. The residue of hard kernels is removed by a strainer. All this takes place in full view behind a window.

Internal, 10 2 & Hayard

Target for Football Passers Used in Practice

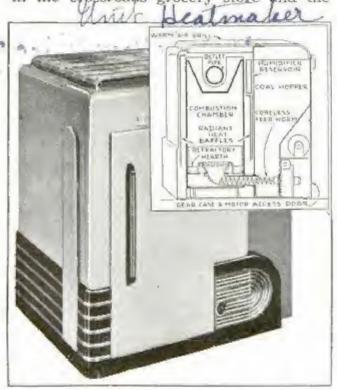
Football players coming out for the spring session at Northwestern University tried out a new target intended to improve their accuracy in making aerial passes frequently a deciding factor in the outcome of a game. A net is stretched over the hooplike frame which has a pulley at the top so it may be slid along the cable, on which it rides to any desired position.

Footballs are sailing at hooplike target suspended on an overhead cable. It means spring training for the big fellows who will handle ball in aerial passing



Stoker-Fired "Space Heater" for Small Home or Store

Modern counterpart of the old-fashioned coal stove that was a familiar sight in the crossroads grocery store and the

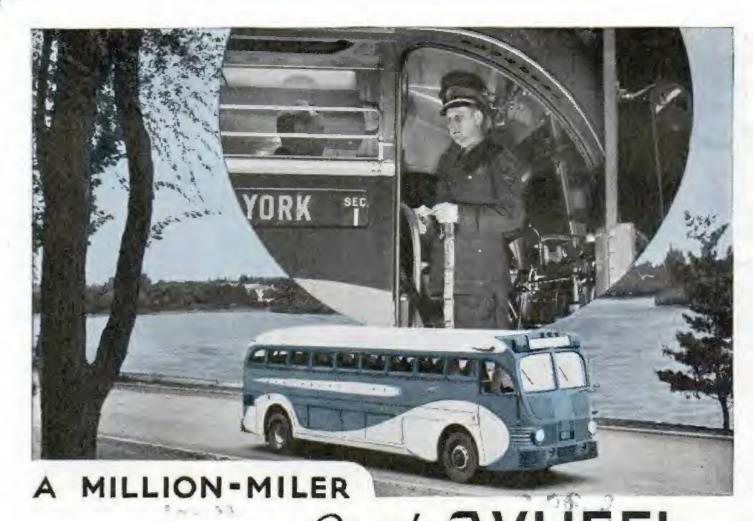


The old coal stove goes modern and efficient in this thermostat-controlled, stoker-fixed space heater

home of the last century is an automatic, stoker-fired heater just announced. In a neat, compact unit for single rooms, small homes or stores it offers the economy of coal heat with cleanliness and thermostatic control. Instead of being merely an automatic burner in a furnace, it is a complete heat-producing unit, including a humidifier. Two sizes are available, one delivering 600 cubic feet of air per minute at 250 degrees, the other 1,200 feet; the smaller holding 200 pounds of coal in its" hopper and measuring about twenty-seven by thirty-seven inches, by forty-five inches tall, the larger model being about \circ nine inches greater in all dimensions and holding 350 pounds of coal. Both anthracite and bituminous burners are offered. The hoppers carry enough coal to feed the heater for more than a day even if operating continuously, and the ash-removal system is planned to assure cleanliness and complete use of all possible heat in the fuel. The entire unit can be dismantled easily and removed for installation in a different location.

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IF EVERY automobile driver were as well trained as the man at the wheel of the highway limited, the roads of America would be many times safer than they are today. A person riding in a privately operated car is fourteen times more likely to be involved in an accident than when he rides in one of our intercity motor coaches.

Charged with the responsibility for transporting nearly 50,000,000 passengers a year over a highway network totaling 50,000 miles, every one of Greyhound's 10,000 drivers faces the loss of his job if he fails to obey the standing order of "Safety First!" The company's unceasing campaign to enforce



Top, driver examining ticket of a passenger. Center, a big coach on the road. Bottom, driver stands by while mechanic adjusts the huge 200-horsepower motor located at the rear of the bus. Experimental work with Diesel-powered coaches has been under way for some time to determine whether oil-burning power plants would be better for buses than the gasoline engines now in common use



of the HIGHWAY LIMITED

that order, plus rigid inspection and maintenance of equipment plus every driver's natural pride in his own work, has made it possible to achieve a world's safety record of 1,249,143 miles of operation without even a scratched fender.

To most motorists the sight of a bus stopping at railroad crossings is familiar. But few can see the sense of bringing a loaded coach to a halt at crossing over which no train has run in years. They probably don't know that the bus driver is under orders to stop at every railroad crossing. On one of our eastern lines, motor coaches had been stopping at a crossing that apparently had been abandoned seven or eight years. So far as the drivers knew, no train ever crossed the highway. Not so long ago, a bus stopped there, as usual. To the driver's amazement, a train pulled slowly across in front of him. Failure to stop that one time might have caused a serious accident.

Another order under which bus drivers



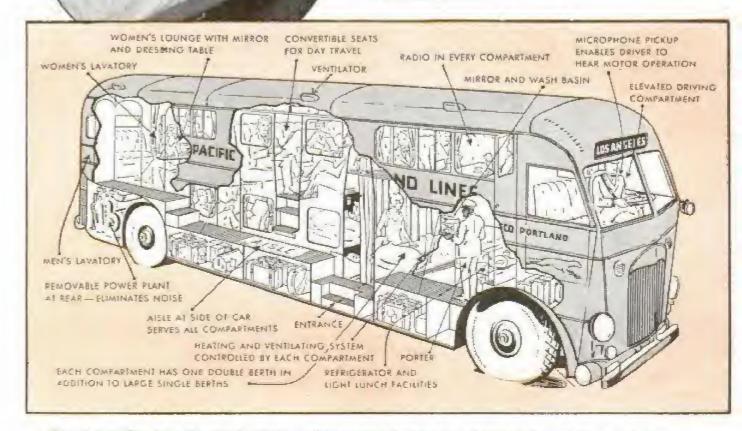
Top, ready to begin a night run. Note the wide visibility afforded the driver by the large wind-shield. Bottom, trim front of a supercoach



operate, and which might well be adopted by the automobile driver, is that the bus shall not exceed the speed limits of any town or state through which it passes. Still another important regulation is that calling for the driver to keep the bus on his own side of the road.

Becoming a bus driver is much like joining the army. The applicant must stand a regular army physical examination after he has been found to be: between twenty-four and thirty years of age; at least five feet eight inches

tall; at least 160 pounds in weight, and of good general appearance, clean cut, cleanly and gentlemanly, with at least a high-school education. After these hurdles have been taken, the applicant takes the wheel of an empty bus for a trial run under the eyes of an expert driver. If he handles the coach satisfactorily, the driver recommends that he be admitted to the drivers' training school.



Top, Driver Guzek at the wheel. Circle, night accommodations abourd sleeper bus. Battom, cutaway drawing shows many features for comfort incorporated into sleeper bus

B . - - - -

Then, for one week, or two if necessary, the student is subjected to an intensive course consisting of safety lectures, mechanical instruction and driving. Half of each day is spent on the road. A written examination follows, with students expected to answer questions about parts of the 200horsepower motor and what they would do in case of trouble on the road, such as making minor repairs or changing one of the big 325-pound tires. You know, you don't lift those tires, you just juggle them until they slip into place on the wheel. If the student passes this test, he is then assigned to selected drivers on regular runs, to give him an opportunity to learn various routes in the territory where he is to be employed. The driver observes the student's driving technique and gives such advice and instructions as may be required to acquaint the student thoroughly with the company's rules, safe driving practices, courtesy to passengers and other requirements necessary to qualify him as a careful and efficient driver. After each run the driver reports on the progress of the student until he is regarded as ready for a run of his own.



Top, a drink en route. Center, loading baggage. Bottom, table set up for card game on highway limited

Even then the company does not relax vigilance in its safety campaign. Every six months the driver is required to stand a physical examination and frequently an inspector rides his bus to observe his actions. If a driver checks in with the dispatcher at the start of his run and appears to need sleep, he is not

(Continued to page 152A)

Lifesaving Car Equipped for Any Emergency







Top to bottom, trained attendants at rear of truck ready for any emergency have portable radio sets strapped to their backs, one man wearing gas mask; view of lifesaving car; and expert hands taking care of victims

More than 1,200 pieces of apparatus are carried by a "disaster" car recently delivered to Portland, Ore, for use in lifesaving and other rescue work. The unit is ready to cope with fire, accidents, storms, floods, and emergencies where human life may be in danger. Among other things, the equipment includes a 100-watt radio for sending and receiving; two portable sets for men in the field; a loud speaker with two-mile range; four lighting units, three of which are portable; eight large floodlights; many kinds of battery lights and flares; cutting tools, acetylene torch, lifting devices, chain hoists and all sorts of wrecking tools. In addition there is a lifeline gun, hospital tent and cots, field kitchen, skis, five-horsepower outboard motor, moving picture camera, gas masks and resuscitator.

Vibrationless Mount for Engine Makes Flying Safer

Safety in the air may be enhanced considerably by engine mounts, under development at two aircraft motor factories, which are designed to reduce vibration. Both designs contemplate the use of far more rubber than heretofore, as well as new. methods of isolating vibration. In present designs, the engine mounts are sometimes suspected of transmitting instead of

The a

damping vibration and in three accidents in recent months the engine has been shaken loose from the nacelle. Although dropping the motor was not the primary cause of accident, it makes safe landing more difficult in the delicately balanced low-wing monoplanes used today. Some of the strain set up when an engine, unbalanced through breakage of a part or the propeller, continues to run, may be overcome by dynamic balance features of the new design.

Pipe Wrench Slides Open or Closed Quickly

Quick adjustment is claimed for a pipe wrench which eliminates the tedious twisting of a wheel or thumbscrew to open o and close it. The mechanic merely presses' two levers to disengage. pins from the notched shank, and then the mouth of the wrench will slide open or closed as many notches as desired, If there is any slack this is taken up as usual by the swivel grip.



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Eight Taught to Swim at Once on Four-Section Tandem Raft



Swim students affoat on rafts learn breast stroke in water, as instructor in left background points to chart indicating arm and leg movements

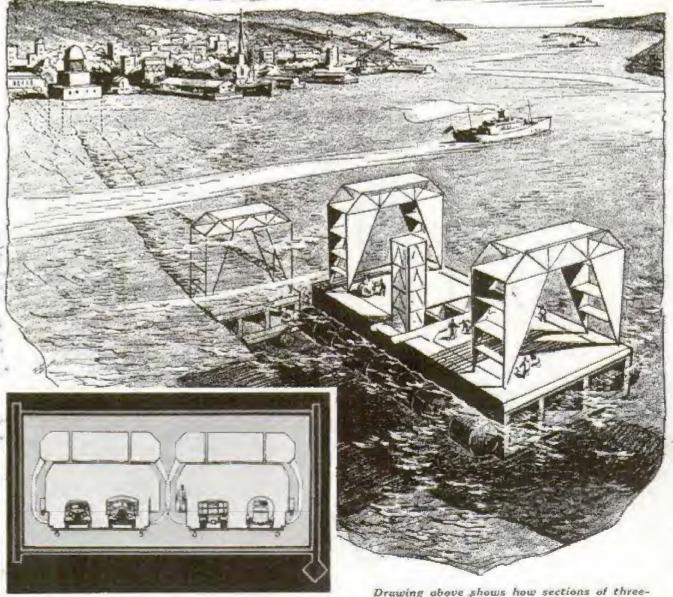
Sailors of the British navy who can't swim are taught the proper strokes in short order at the Devonport-royal barracks with the help of a kind of tandem raft. Eight men can take lessons at one time, using their arms and legs freely while lying across one of the four floating supports. After

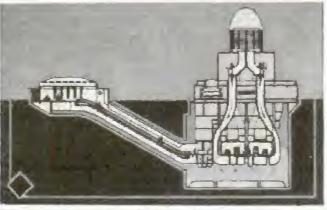
four lessons they know how to paddle around.

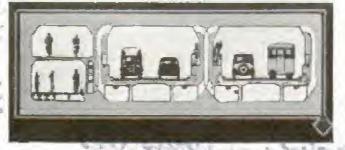
Cement and Soil Make Low-Cost Pavement Thousands of miles may be added to the country's hardsurfaced road system at low cost by a method of mixing concrete with surface soil, according to reports given the American Road Builders' association. The soil is first tested to determine the amount of Portland cement to be added for hardness and durability; then the ground is dug up with a tilling machine to a depth of four inches. Cement is spread over the loose soil and mixed thoroughly by the tiller. After water is added to make a moist mixture, the pavement is finished by leveling, rolling and a few days of drying.

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Pre-Cast Concrete Tunnel Sunk in River Bed



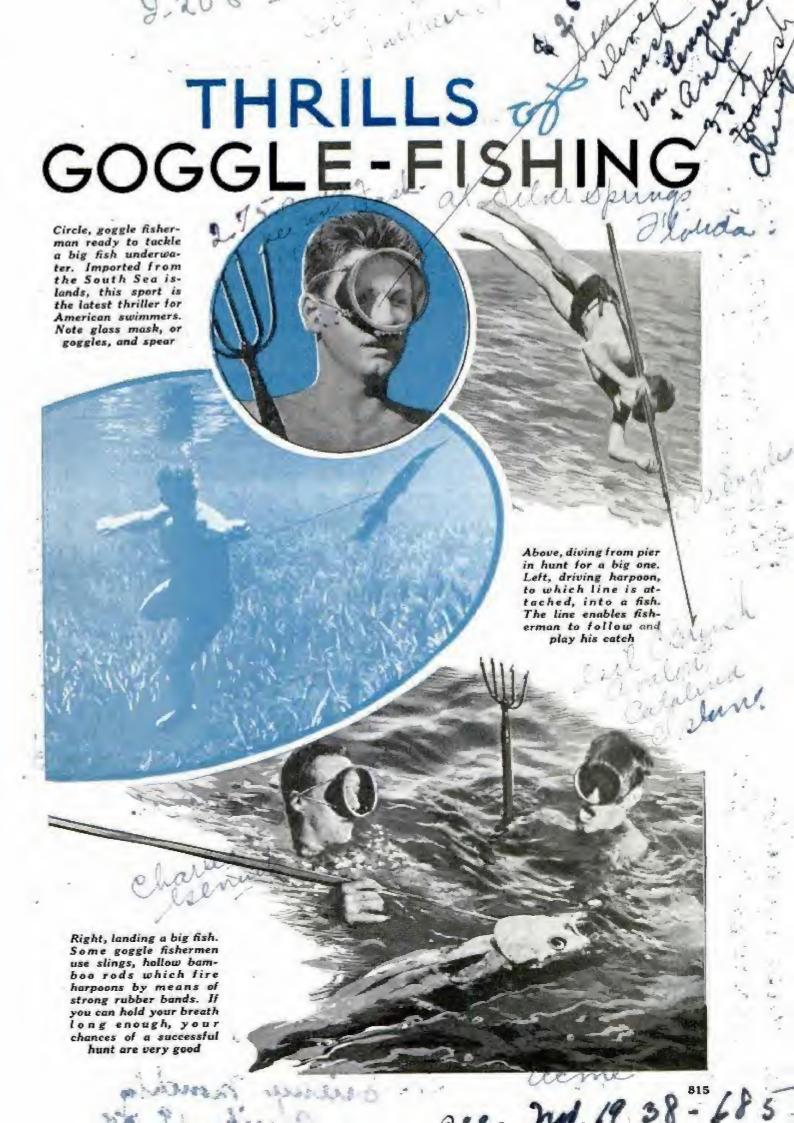




Drawing above shows how sections of threetube traffic tunnel are floated to site, then sunk. Left, cross-sections of land (above) and river parts of tunnel (below); center, ventilation tower

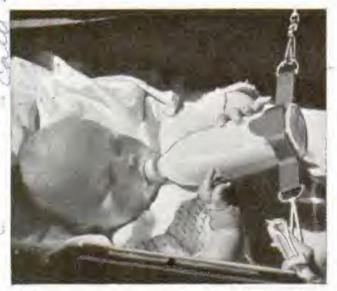
At a fraction of the cost of boring under the river, engineers are sinking to the bed of the river Meuse at Rotterdam a pre-cast concrete tunnel. More than a mile long, it will connect the two populous sections of the city, providing three separate traffic channels-two for motor vehicles and a third for pedestrians and eyelists, for whom escalators will be installed at the two shore approaches. Tunnel sections of reinforced concrete are floated to position : and then sunk to the channel dredged for them. Properly alined, they are joined under water with the aid of diving bells. The builders plan to complete the \$10,000,-000 tunnel in 1941.

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Baby-Bottle 'Swing' in Crib Is Always in Reach



Just the right tilt is given bottle by this crib clamp so baby can drink milk to the last drop

Time and trouble of holding the baby's bottle during feeding can be saved by using a holder that attaches to the crib or buggy. Two stout rubber bands joined together are divided in the middle to accommodate the bottle, which is kept within easy reach of the infant. At the ends of the sling are rings for convenience in tying it to any handy support.

Tractor Turns in Own Length and Gives Driver Clear View

Seated forward of the four rear driving wheels the operator of a recently invented tractor has full view of the ground to be



Tractor turns "pigeon-toed" to wheel around in its own length. Note forward position of driver's seat

covered and is away from the exhaust fumes. The two guide wheels in front can be extended for added length if needed, and the tractor can turn in its own length. One of each of the rear dual wheels can be removed to operate through rows of crops, giving a variable width of forty-eight to seventy-two inches. Built of welded structural steel, the tractor weighs 2,400 pounds and has a drawbar pull of 1,500 pounds at four and one-half miles per hour. It has four speeds forward and two reverse and makes two to twenty miles an hour.

Sterilizing Lamp in Refrigerator Kills Germs with Sun Rays



Tube lamp emits ultraviolet rays which kill bacteria floating in dir within refrigerator

Ultraviolet lamps are now available for installation in household refrigerators. Plugged into the ordinary lamp socket, they shed sterilizing rays over the food compartment to kill bacteria and microorganisms within range of their invisible light. The six and one-half inch mercury vapor lamp uses less than one-fourth the current of a twenty-five watt lamp.

(The world's population makes an estimated net gain of 100,000 persons a day; the United States contributes about 3,700.



SON YOU'RE GOING TO FLY

PASSENGERS on "Trip Three" show their tickets as they board the coastto-coast liner, right, and their names are checked on the manifest. Above, stewardess and co-pilot examine records at start of the flight from Newark to California.



By Roderick M. Grant

You'RE going to make your first air trip?
Well, it's high time. A few more years and there'll be scarcely a thrill left in it, for stratosphere planes

will be taking you up where there's nothing to see but a blue blur.

Like thousands of others planning

TWILIGHT settles over Manhattan, top, as your plane heads westward. City lights are a thrilling spectacle from the air. Left, stewardess points out landmarks on the route.

their first flight, you probably feel right now like a pioneer packing his pony for an unblazed trail into the perilous Northwest Territory. You're pretty scared or thoroughly thrilled. Maybe a little of both. There's not much reason for either. Ten years ago, when air transport was still in rompers, you'd have waited two or three hours at the airport for mail

connections to arrive, then climbed over the wing into the cramped two-seat cabin where they piled mail sacks in your lap. You waved to excited friends through a window rapidly clouding with a film of oil as the single motor hauled you across bumpy, furrowed turf, hurdled telephone wires and climbed up and away for a hedge-hopping cross-country tour.

But air transport is in long trousers

now. You buy transportation, not a carnival thrill-ride. Still, there are thrills for a first-flighter. You're going to have yours.

Want to be in San Francisco Saturday? You can take United Air Lines "Continental" sleeper that leaves Newark at 5:15 p.m., Friday, and you'll be in 'Frisco at 8:15 Saturday morning.

A three-minute phone call saves a seat in your name. air line limousine will pick you up Friday, an hour or so before departure time. Tip the red cap at the airport and pay for your ticket, and you're through spending money for 2,639 miles. As on an ocean liner, your fare includes meals. Better than an ocean liner, there's no retinue of stewards and maids to "fee." You can try to tip the stewardess if you like her looks (and you will), but she'll politely refuse.

Don't be embarrassed when the ticket agent asks your weight. He won't ask your age. But the pilot must have the exact weight of his load, gasoline and oil, passengers and crew, mail, express and baggage. You are allowed forty pounds of luggage. A few



SOARING above a river, you check your progress on the illustrated map of Newark-Chicago-San Francisco airway. Below, comfortable lounge chairs are adjustable to let air travelers visit and play games, read, nap, or enjoy the view.





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years ago they'd have actually put you on the scales and debated whether to take you along; the air mail had to go, and no one particularly cared whether passengers were accommodated—it was the mail that "paid the freight."

At the ticket desk you peel off \$157.95 for the sleeper trip. Lucky this is 1939. Ten years ago you'd have dealt out \$400 for the one-way journey that took twice as long and involved six different planes instead of two

They take your baggage away, after weighing it-and if you want your hairbrush and pajamas, get them right now; you won't see the bags again this side of San Francisco Bay. You are given a small suede overnight bag to hold the necessities of life on a sleeper. You can even forget the toothbrush and razor: brush, cosmetics and the like will be supplied by the steward-An electric razor awaits your chin in the dressing room, where it plugs into a 110-volt circuit.

Over the public-address system of the air depot, departures and arrivals are being announced, and at last the loud speaker summons you:

"United Air Lines, Trip Three, for Chicago, Omaha, Cheyenne, Salt Lake City and San Francisco, ship now ready at Gate Four."

The glittering silver sky lounge has wheeled into position, steps are rolled to the open door. Idling propeller blades flash in the setting sun. You notice the pilot peering from the forward window, radio earphones over his head. You've watched this performance at the airport many a time, yet you have a subconscious feeling that you're about

BEDTIME comes too soon on the sleeper plane, above. At sunset you may ride above a rolling bank of fleecy clouds, sun-tinted like those at left.

FIRST call for dinner gets an enthusiastic response. Dining in the sky is a thrill to be re-membered. Right, "makeup" in the women's dressing room at rear of sleeper. to make the first flight in history. Attempting nonchalance, you give the stewardess your name; she flashes the smile that helped get her the job, cheeks your name on the manifest and

you follow her up the roomy lounge.

Choose a seat near the front or rear, if you can. There's no difference in comfort, but you can see better. Those vast wings shut out the view directly below the middle seats.

The stewardess goes swiftly into her routine of fastening your seat belt, but as you reach for a cigarette she points to the sign up ahead—"No smoking during takeoff or landing."



MEALS are prepared on the ground and served from this flying kitchen. The vacuum bottles dispense hot and cold beverages. Below, you will never forget your first view of a great city carpeted with lights, seen from window of an air liner riding mile-high in the sky.

Jittery? Take it easy. You're not in a dentist's chair. And the pilot has flown before.

Twin motors purr. You roll along to a corner of the field, swing around, head upwind and stop. What's wrong? One motor is roaring at high pitch, the other idling. Then the other engine is revved up. It's all right, the pilot is merely giving each a final test.

Now both engines are humming. Take out your watch. You are rolling, faster,

faster, the tail lifts from the ground and you level off, ten seconds pass and the concrete runway drops away. You're in the air, first flighter! Yes, there are telegraph wires and hangars ahead, but the broad wings take a deep bite of air and you are climbing steeply. The airport is behind you—then the earth tilts up alarmingly and slanting smokestacks and trees reach for your window. You glance quickly at fellow passengers. No one seems perturbed. You're banking, of





course, the takeoff had been northeastward and you must wheel around to the west for Chicago.

Already the needles of Manhattan are dwindling, fading into the purple dusk enveloping the city. Lights are beginning to twinkle in the satellite suburbs of the metropolis, but a bright orange orb of sun shines ahead as you climb above the pall of ground haze. Twilight below, daylight still up here. Your ears crack, you swallow and hear the stewardess, above the soft drone of the engines, offer you the evening paper and a eigarette while she unfastens your belt. Ear-stoppers used to be the first offering, but today cabins are so well soundproofed you can chat in ordinary voice. The engines that roar at earth-bound listeners sing but a humming obbligato to passengers aboard.

Funny, now that you think of it—you expected to be dizzy at this great height. Looking down from tall buildings, dropping in express elevators always annoyed you. Here you are 8,000 feet up, and you have no sensation of height or speed. You are drifting smoothly, with a sense of solidity. There is no ladder from the earth to give you a giddy feeling of height, no highway, no traffic, no houses rushing past to furnish perspective and a realization of speed. Watch those section lines down below, marking roads a mile apart, and you discover your wing is cutting across three every minute.

And smooth? It's hard to believe you're traveling 180 miles an hour or more. Recently a billiard table was installed in one of these sky lounges and a trick shot champion gave a demonstration 5,000 feet over



BOTH uppers and lowers have their own windows in the sleeper, and each has an adjustable ventilator. The stewardess may wake you gently before landing and tell you to swallow, to adjust your ears to changing altitude.



Chicago. So vibrationless was the flight that he could balance one billiard ball on top of two others!

You used to hear a lot about airsickness. It's virtually extinct today. Occasionally, of course, there's a bumpy day, and occasionally the stewardess, who is a trained nurse before she's a stewardess, must minister to someone with a case of 'mal d'air,' but any old-time pilot will tell you what was really the matter!

"She tried to hold up the plane with her stomach."

Less than three in every 1,000 passengers become airsick.

By this time your own jitters have vanished, and when the stewardess pauses at Seat Three

(Continued on page 128A)



APPY landing at the end of the line, top. Notice upper berth windows. Below, sky tourist's view on arriving over San Francisco bay, with bridge and Treasure Island fair in foreground, Alcatraz isle in distance, San Francisco skyline and Golden Gate bridge in left background.

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POPULAR MECHANICS
POPULA

Whiskers Big as Tree Stumps Seen on Screen

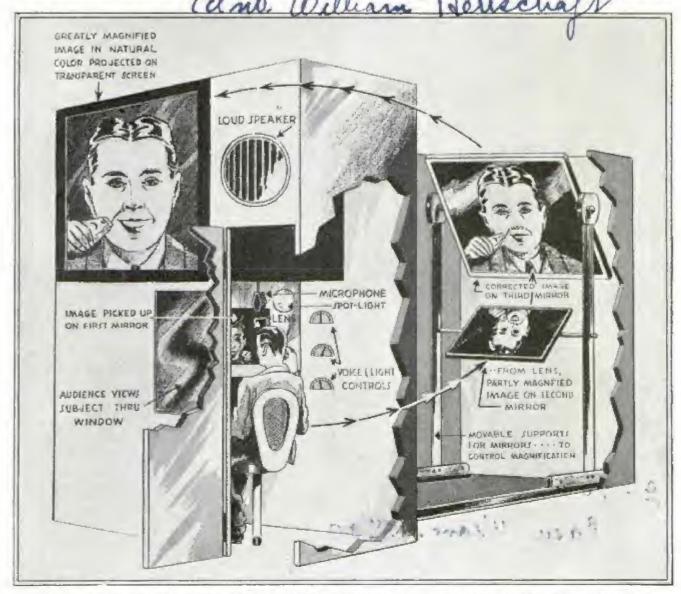


Diagram shows how image of subject is reflected through a series of mirrors and finally projected to screen greatly enlarged. Announcements come to the audience over public-address system

Images of living models, instead of slides and films, will be projected to a large screen at New York World's Fair. Enlargements up to thirty diameters can be shown. The "magnascope," as the projector is called, will be used by a manufacturer to demonstrate the technique of electric shaving, and a day-old beard will be made

to look like a forest of tree stumps. A reflection of the subject will be picked up in a small mirror, passed through a series of condensing and magnifying lenses to a second and larger mirror, thence to a third mirror, from which it is projected, greatly magnified, to a screen where visitors will see the image in natural color.

Submarine Cables 344,079 Miles Long Link the Nations

Of the 344,079 nautical miles of submarine cables that "rope" together the continents, British and American private companies operate more than two-thirds. The total, sufficient to circle the globe about fourteen times, includes 287,708 miles of privately operated cables with British companies controlling 154,949 and Ameri-

cans 94,150 miles; and government-operated cables reaching 51,973 miles. In addition, more than 4,000 miles of cables were ceded by Germany to the allied powers by the Versailles treaty and their present ownership is unknown to the Telecommunications Union. France leads in government-operated cables with 17,686 miles.

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British Streamliner 'Chums' with Americans

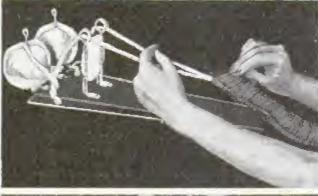


Here's a "four-horse" team representing the latest in steam, Diesel-electric and electric power. Left to right, British "Coronation Scot," two Baltimore and Ohio locomotives and a Pennsylvania electric engine

Paying an "ambassadorial" visit to Washington, D. C., recently, the "Coronation Scot" met three great American locomotives in the depot and they lined up on adjoining tracks to pose for a family portrait. The streamline steam speedster of the London, Midland and Scottish railway

was just beginning a tour of American cities. Its three streamline acquaintances in Washington were the steam-driven "iron horse" of the Baltimore and Ohio "Royal Blue," the Diesel-electric that hauls the "Capitol Limited" of that line and a Pennsylvania electric locomotive.

Pile Rugs with Designs Made on Small Home Loom





Top, using the small loom. Note its simplicity. Bottom, weaving rug fringe

By using a patented wire-frame loom, beautiful design rugs with a pile can be made in the home. Fabric cut into strips, or yarn cut to proper length, may be used, and the pile is formed with a knot similar to that used since ancient time in the making of Oriental rugs. Colored design charts, which guide the loom operator in arranging the knots on the braid, facilitate the production of beautiful designs. The charts indicate rows which correspond to lengths of braid formed on the loom, each row being divided into the colors which correspondingly occur in the design. Calibrated so that the number of knots to be tied on the braid for any color is indicated, the charts insure that the length of color on the braid will be proper, and that a uniform pile is produced on the braid and in the rug. Light, durable and small enough to be held on the lap or used on a table. the inexpensive loom lends itself to the weaving of rugs by the unskilled. The rugs, made from woolens, yarns, silk stockings,

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dyed rags, old dresses and similar articles of clothing, can be vacuum or dry-cleaned. Charts illustrating a number of different designs, and yarns, especially treated so as to be particularly adaptable for use in rugs, are available. The method of making rugs from the described charts is also patented.

Stratoship Ride Among Latest Thrillers

Thrills and excitement of stunt flying, plus the pleasant features of a smooth glide through space, are obtained in a stratoship ride at the New York World's Fair. Passengers ride in a car balanced by a water tank and driven by a propeller motor. The car rotates on an axis, climbing, banking, diving and going through other motions of stunt flying.

Swift Attack Bombers Race for Jobs in Army Air Corps



Photos U. S. Army Air Corps

Top, the Martin attack bomber; center, Steaman Aircraft's entry, and below, the tricyclestype ship offered by North American Aviation

Three fast attack bombers are engaged in keen competition for adoption by the U. S. army air corps. All twin-

Passengers ride in car at right while water tank at left acts as ballast

engined ships, they were offered for army trials by three manufacturers, and although their performance records remain secret it is understood each is capable of six miles a minute, speed enough to outrace all but the newest and fastest of pursuit planes. One of the planes has tricycle landing gear. They are heavily armed with machine guns and bombing equipment.

(More than 28,700 lighthouses, lightships, buoys and other markers girdling the United States coast and extending to the Hawaiian Islands are manned by 5,189 workers.

Home Pre-Built in Sections Is Trucked to Site



Top, trucking two pre-built sections and an "addable bedroom" to the building site. Right, the two sections, split down gable ends, ready for joining on loundation; left, the finished and landscaped house

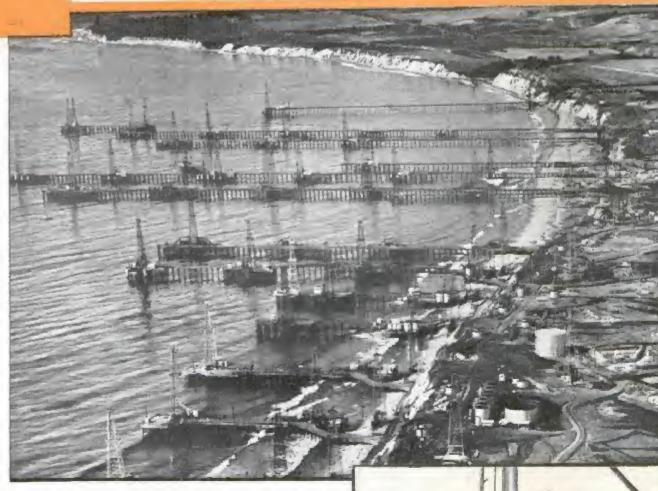
variable inclum In Seattle you can buy a factory-built timber house of four rooms, completely equipped and ready to live in, for \$2,980, It is trucked to your lot in two sections, split down the ridge pole and gable ends; it is set on the foundations, the two halves are joined by a patented method, and in three or four hours you can move your furniture in. Within forty-eight hours the shrubbery and lawn are planted and you Tare settled, with a house and garden. The house is constructed in a hangar-type factory building on an assembly line. Sheathing and sub-flooring are both glued and nailed; lap siding is laid over three-ply Dwood, which is glued and nailed to the studs. The roof is cedar-shingled; walls and ceilings are finished with insulation board, and floors are pressed hardwood. If you order it, an "addable" bedroom comes

on another truck. The house arrives already painted and decorated. Since there is no basement, the cost of excavating is eliminated. There is a disappearing laundry and heating room, concealed behind sliding panels in a space nine feet by three feet two inches, in which are an air-conditioning and oil-burning heating plant, electric hot-water tank, electric washer and laundry tray, all included, with electric fixtures and plumbing, in the original Kitchen equipment includes an electric stove and refrigerator. 2 (MM COM)

(Argentinians soon will be able to mail a vocal message anywhere in the world by telephoning the post office and dictating the letter to a disk record, the service and postage being charged on the phone bill.

2 Commence

LET'S GO DEEPER



By Dr. P. G. Worcester

Chief of the Department of Geology University of Colorado

YEARS ago they told us that soon we'd have to find a substitute for oil. Yet year after year the United States goes on producing more than sixty per cent of the world's oil, and digging gold and other metals at an undiminished rate.

How can this go on? The slogan of oil men and ore miners gives the answer:

"Let's go deeper!"

In 1917 we were told that all the oil in the United States would be exhausted by 1929. Ironically, 1929 saw the greatest year's production of oil up to that time. Since then production has averaged a billion barrels a year, yet on January 1, 1938, there were proven reserves in this country of 15,500,000,000 barrels, enough at the present rate of production to last about twelve years. All this is crude oil recoverable through wells.

Top, even the ocean's bed is not safe from oil drillers. Below, sensitized film and tiny electric lights synchronized by stop watch are sent down into "hole" to photograph direction and angle of borings

POPULAR MECHANICS

Lower photo courtesy the Colorado Association

Top, old wooden rigs and new-style metal rigs crowded together on Signal Hill in California. Right, electricwelding an oil pipe line. Bottom, "hard rock mining" with air drill

No one who is familiar with modern geological exploration, recent chemical improvements in oil refining, and new technique in drilling, believes for

one minute that the present known resources represent all the oil that will be produced in this country. For the past twenty years geologists have found oil as fast as it has been needed to supply a constantly growing demand, and the engineers have got it out of the ground. They

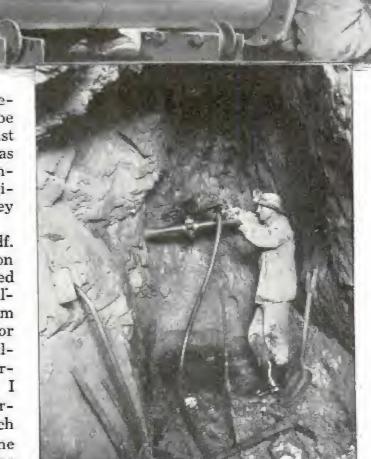
are not through yet.

The search for oil is a story in itself. Until recently, emphasis was placed on surface structures. Now we are interested in buried domes, source beds, deeper drilling, and repressuring to get more oil from the sands. The intensity of the search for "structures" twenty years ago is well illustrated by the remark of a weatherbeaten old farmer in Montana in 1919, I had stopped at his ranch to get some information. Evidently he did not have much use for geologists, for he said, "If anyone should lose a dime in Montana in the

morning, some pebble-pup (his name for geologists) would find it

before night."

It is safe to say that all important closed domes (anticlines) that outcrop at the surface of the ground in the United States have been drilled. Many have produced oil or gas, and a lot have been dry. Not a few will be redrilled to greater depth. This has already happened in many fields with excellent results, and the work is just beginning.



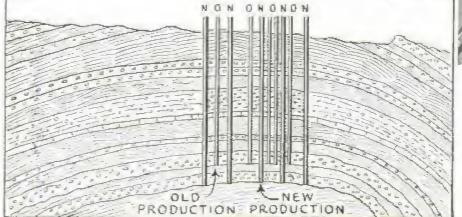
The famous old Spindletop field, at Beaumont, Tex., is a shining example of what deeper drilling in a proven field has done for the oil business. With an area of only 265 acres, it has a record of production per acre surpassed by only one other field in this country. It was discovered by Captain Anthony Lucas in 1901. Lucas, supported by optimism not shared by his associates, started drilling with a little rotary rig. At 1,139 feet the well "came in," spouting a sixinch stream 200 feet into the air and "making," on conservative estimate,

75,000 barrels a day. No provision had been made to store the oil, and it ran wild over the country, soon caught fire, and when the fire was finally extinguished, the well was ruined. Immediately other wells were started, and in 1902 Spindletop produced 17,420,949 barrels of oil. This, however, was too good to last. In 1903 production was only half that of the previous year. In 1904 only forty per cent of the 1903 oil was produced. By 1924, the field was practically exhausted after yielding some 50,000,000 barrels.

Then came deeper drilling. Encouraged by experience in neighboring fields, oil companies started systematic drilling, and encoun-

(Continued to page 114A)





Top, loading hole preparatory to breaking up rock. Workmen can put together one of the new all-metal oil rigs, above, in a lew hours. Left, diagram of Lance Creek oil structure showing how deeper drilling has tapped new pool and revived production in a field once thought to have been worked out. Redrilling has brought good results in many fields

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Self-Contained Diver's Suit Carries Own Air Supply



Diving suit having own our supply does not require usual oir lines, but only cable to lower and raise it

No outside help other than that of lifting in and out of the water is needed by a diver wearing a suit in which a combination of oxygen and helium is used while under water. It is hoped that with this apparatus, which has demonstrated its ability to withstand water pressures found at 2,000 feet, it will be possible to explore depths of the sea in greater comfort and safety.

Putty Tool Makes Even Bevel



Straight, uniform bevels are easy to make with a glazier's tool that has a V-shaped blade to guide it. After putty has been squeezed into place as usual, the knife is drawn firmly over it with the "V" resting on the edge of the

frame. One blade edge follows the frame while the other forces the putty in along the edge of the glass, finishing it in an even angle. Corners, difficult to handle with the conventional putty knife, are quickly and smoothly done with the new tool.

Eggs with "Rainbow" Yolks Produced by Hens on Diet

Red, white and green egg yolks were exhibited recently by Kansas State College scientists who had tricked the hens into this strange product by giving them a special diet. Olive green yolks resulted from feeding them a molasses oat-grass silage. Lobster shells fed to the hens produced eggs with red-orange yolks, and by eliminating carotene—the pigment that colors carrots—from the hens' menu the yolks were made colorless when hard boiled.

Transparent "Skin" Seals Apple to Keep It Fresh for Market

Before you bite that apple, see whether that skin it's wearing is nature's own or man's invention. Apples are being wrapped for market today in a transparent skin-like covering that protects them from dust, decay and handling. The wrapper peels off like extremely thin rubber.



The transparent skin-thin covering, applied by dipping, is easily peeled from the apple

Fruit maches

9.244 POPULAR MECHANICS

Aluminum Pan Floats on Electric "Cushion"

With sixty-cycle electromagnets whose pole faces lie in a horizontal plane, it has been found possible to hold up aluminum disks and dishes in stable equilibrium so that they float in air. A new General Electric company machine produces this effect at the San Francisco exposition and the New York World's Fair. In effect the disk or dish "rests on" a radial field extending from a central pole to a ring pole having a diameter of nineteen inches. This field also gives stability against tipping. Stability against sliding is furnished by an additional field between the ring pole and poles still further from the center. Aluminum disks or dishes nineteen to twenty-one inches in diameter and five-sixteenths of an inch thick float readily at heights up to two and one-half inches above the pole faces. Total power of one kilowatt supports a total load, weight of disk plus added weight, of fourteen pounds one and one-





Two views of aluminum pan being supported in air only by electromagnetic force developed by new machine

half inches off the pole. The levitation stunt creates an eerie effect when the opposing currents are turned on and the dish begins to rise and dance above the machine.

Model Waved on End of Stick Is Target for Aerial Gunner

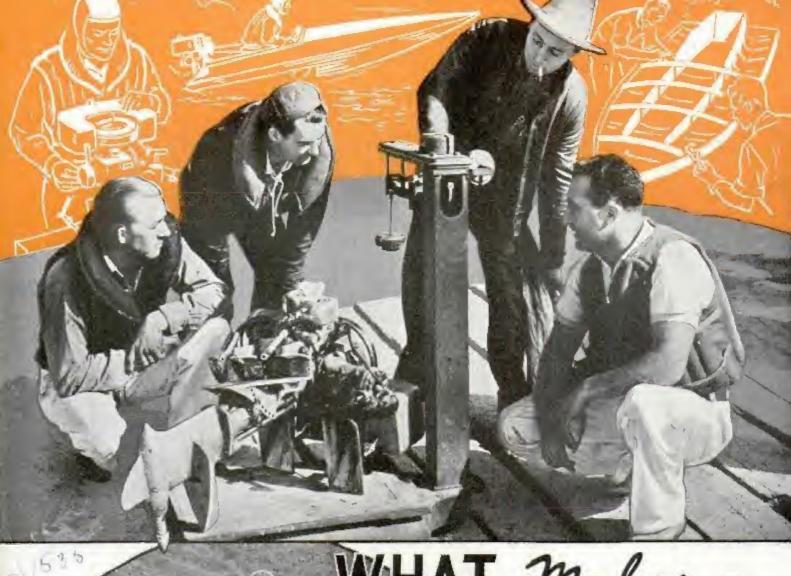


Recruit keeps machine gun pointed at target waved about by other man

Moving targets for practice of aerial gunners of the British Air Force are fashioned by mounting model planes on sticks. A recruit, standing in a wooden frame, learns to keep the sights of his machine gun trained on the target as another recruit moves it in imitation of a ship in flight.

¶There were 155 licensed airplanes in Alaska last year, compared with 101 in 1937, and they carried 26,885 passengers against 20,958 in 1937. In 1929 there were only eight planes in Alaskaf

Christian Colore 3/24/3/





Outboard motor being weighed in after successful run. Note drivers wearing life jackets. Below, tiny speedster arrives at regatta scene on trailer

WHAT Makes a

MORE than 2,500 speed merchants of the waterways have just launched their 1939 crusade for glory, trophies and new records in motorboat racing.

They'll careen over all manner of courses before the season ends—on lakes, reservoirs,
rivers, the open ocean—in
hundreds of speedfests, ranging from the national outboard
championships and the Gold
Cup regatta, to "wild-cat"
back-vard race meets.

Perhaps 125 of these drivers will attain sectional distinction in a year of racing that may cost them anywhere from a few hundred dollars to amazingly high figures. At the outside, thirty will win national honors in one of twenty-eight recognized classes. And only a half dozen will

TFISH (-35

SPEEDBOAT CHAMPION?



They're off! Boats in picture, top, are Class-C service outboard runabouts. Bottom, here's a speedster literally standing on its tail—and at a speed of close to fifty miles per hour

reach the champion-among-champions inner shrine.

Whether they drive one of the fifty-pound midget M-Class outboard cockle-shell hulls, or go all the way through the ranks to the unlimited class, there is a common lure—speed and thrills. The bug to become a topflight speedboat racer can bite anybody and there are enough awards

and honors to be won in some class to fit almost any income bracket.

During ninety officially sanctioned regattas in the United States in 1938, twenty-eight new speed records were set; seventeen major inboard trophies and twenty-one outboard trophies were won. Fourteen national outboard champions were crowned, with as many other top



factors of stress and purpose in hull design.

Another common precept, used by some drivers who never arrive, is that "the guy with the money can build the boat to win." It does not always hold water. Champions who made the grade without benefit of some sponsoring angel have first the option of the class they want to drive and the first rule is "don't go over your head financially." Buy or build a boat you can afford to keep in first-class condition and see that you do. If you can't afford to keep up your equipment, go into a cheaper class.

Naturally, only a few drivers could follow the costly, painstaking road it would take to go into the tops of all classes—unlimited. Though plans thus far have been developed with some secrecy, it is a safe guess that around \$100,000 has been spent



 honors falling to drivers of the inboard divisions.

What makes a speedboat champion?

Two accepted requisites are driving skill and daring, but these are not enough. The longest way toward a speedboat championship is traversed in the several thousand back-yard garages and workshops throughout the nation, where drivers and their mechanics play with cranky, high-speed motors, experiment with fuel mixtures and work out mathematical

Top, power plant of 225-class racer. Center, at the driving pits, waiting for start of another race. Bottom, spectacular spill shot resulting from shidding on turn

on the "Bluebird's" successor which Sir Malcolm Campbell of Great Britain plans to seek a new mile straightaway record in the early fall. He will probably try it on the densely saline waters of Salton sea, in Southern California's Colorado desert. Arthur L. Bobrick, member of the National Racing Commission, believes that improved carburetion at the 250-foot-belowsea-level altitude of the Salton sea, plus the buoyancy of its waters, may hoist the fastest speed on water by several miles an hour. If Campbell is successful in breaking his own 130.93 miles-per-hour mark, he will doubtless have proved much of value to engineers and to motorboating as a whole. But a fortune will be spent and after a year of preparation he will have a ride of a little over twenty seconds in making the record!

For money that the average man can afford, there are thrills nearly as great and they come a lot oftener in any of a dozen

speedboat classes.

Ward Angilley, a \$28-a-week clerk, has achieved a record that will parallel or eclipse that of any pilot in speedboating today. He is the only top-flight amateur outboard driver who has raced for eleven * consecutive years. Angilley maintains a two-boat "stable," the Class C hydroplane "Sweetheart" and the Class C runabout "Lollypop." He has five motors, to let him enter four classes on occasion; he owns a small coupe with a two-boat trailer and boasts an ace mechanic in his buddy, Bob Van Horne. In 1936 Angilley amassed enough points, traveling to sanctioned regattas throughout the United States, to win a leg on the \$5,000 Col. E. H. R. Green Round Hill trophy, emblematic of amateur outboard driving supremacy in America. He also won the National Class-C racing runabout titles in 1935, 1937 and 1938,

Angilley has captured 156 trophies, some nationally important, and won 146 merchandise awards. He has started 363 races, won 302 prizes, failed to finish fifty-seven races and finished out of the money four times. He has had forty-one "wing-dings" (spills). One time his boat flipped completely over, landed right side up and went on to win a race.

Generally speaking, any pilot aiming to reach to top brackets has a pretty welldefined course ahead:

(Continued to page 125A)

Two-Minute Photo Printed in Portable Studio





Top, loading "blanks" into camera; below, completing development process in daylight tanks

Finished photographs are delivered in two minutes by a semi-automatic camera just introduced. Its magazine holds fifty "sensitized blanks," which are fed into position for exposure by turning a knob. After each exposure a plunger drops the "blank," which is made of waterproof paper, into a developing chamber and the developing solution is fed by a rubber bulb. After thirty seconds the bulb withdraws it and water is sent in by another bulb for a rinse. Other solutions in small tanks on the side of the camera complete the development process. Since no moisture is absorbed, the prints dry almost immediately.

Dog's Non-Skid Feed Bowl Has a Rubber Base



Pottery bowl sets in recessed top of rubber base which clings to the floor while dog eats his dinner

To keep the dog from pushing his dinner around the kitchen floor, a non-skid feeding bowl is available. The bowl itself, made of pottery in various colors, holds more than a quart. It fits on a base of rubber, the bottom of which has concentric rings to prevent slipping.

Typewriter Sends Radio Letter by Dialing Distant Receiver

As fast as a stenographer in New York can punch the keys of an electric typewriter, a letter can be transmitted by radio to a receiving typewriter as far away as Budapest. The radio typewriter, invented by a Budapest resident, is both transmitter and receiver, operating on about 150 watts.



After dialing a distant receiving typewriter, the typist transmits his message by radio

Each set has its own call-number combination and the connection is made by a dial like that of the automatic telephone. A small light bulb on the sender's instrument board indicates when the receiver is ready to take a letter. The typewriter and radio equipment are portable, and messages could be exchanged easily between two sets in automobiles far apart. All signals are on the same wave length, but interference is prevented by an "absorber" which not only cuts out other stations from receiving the message but eliminates fading due to atmospheric disturbances. If desired, however, any number of receiving typewriters can take the radio message.

Noiseless Electric Lawnmower Saves Time and Hard Work

Silent and easy to run, a lawnmower powered by an electric motor does all its own pushing and needs only the light touch of the operator to guide it. With a



It's easy work to guide this electric lawnmower; a grass catcher can be hung on brackets if desired

pew type of cutting unit adjusted to threethousandths inch clearance there is no clattering noise from the knives. Located on the steering handle for convenience, the switch has a special automatic shut-off arrangement that stops the motor when the mower becomes stalled by refuse on the lawn. Height of the rubber-tired machine has been kept as low as possible for convenience in trimming under hedges and shrubs. A long cord is used for plugging into the nearest electric outlet.

Weather Ships Chart Air for Atlantic Clippers



Top, left, Lieutenant Commander Edward H. Smith, commanding the cutter "Chelan," and Lieutenant Ned Sprow preparing radio meteorograph for trip aloft; right, sighting departing balloon with theodolite, to compute wind velocity and direction

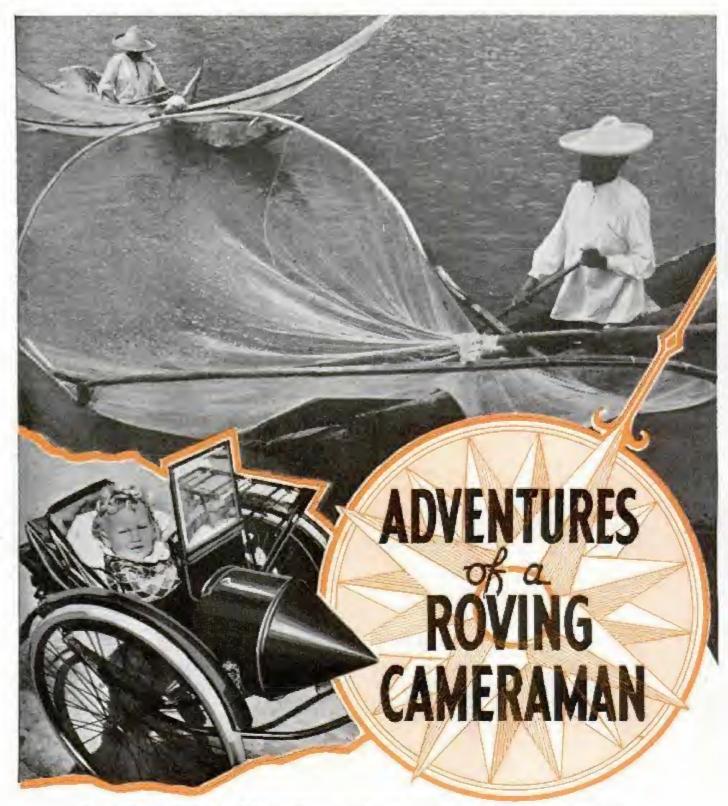


Left, attaching radio meteorograph to balloon, which must be checked for proper carrying weight. Parachute is provided to bring instruments down slowly after balloon bursts in stratosphere. Above, releasing automatic weather observer, which rises until it disappears but continues signaling

Forecasts of weather along the Atlantic scaboard and over the British Isles are not enough to satisfy a pilot starting from New York for Europe with a load of passengers and mail. So, when regular transatlantic flights begin, floating weather stations will make daily observations along the air route. The U.S. Coast Guard cutters "Chelan" and "Champlain" will pianeer the service, sending aloft balloons with radio meteorographs to report temperature, pressure and humidity to ship while observers trace balloons for wind direction. Right, chief radio officer on coast guard ship tuning in to receive data from meteorograph

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Top, natives with "butterfly" nets fishing in dugout canoes on a Mexican lake. Left, a youngster in Moscow, Russia, rides in comfort in sidecar attached to his father's bicycle

IF YOU'D call it dangerous to film a religious carnival of superstitious, camera-shy Mongolians, to

be tossed by a capricious Siberian reindeer or to land an airplane in dense fog between a pair of Chinese mountains that are entirely too close for comfort, then mine is a dangerous profession.

Still, I have packed my movie camera 300,000 miles through twenty countries in the last nine years and my worst injury

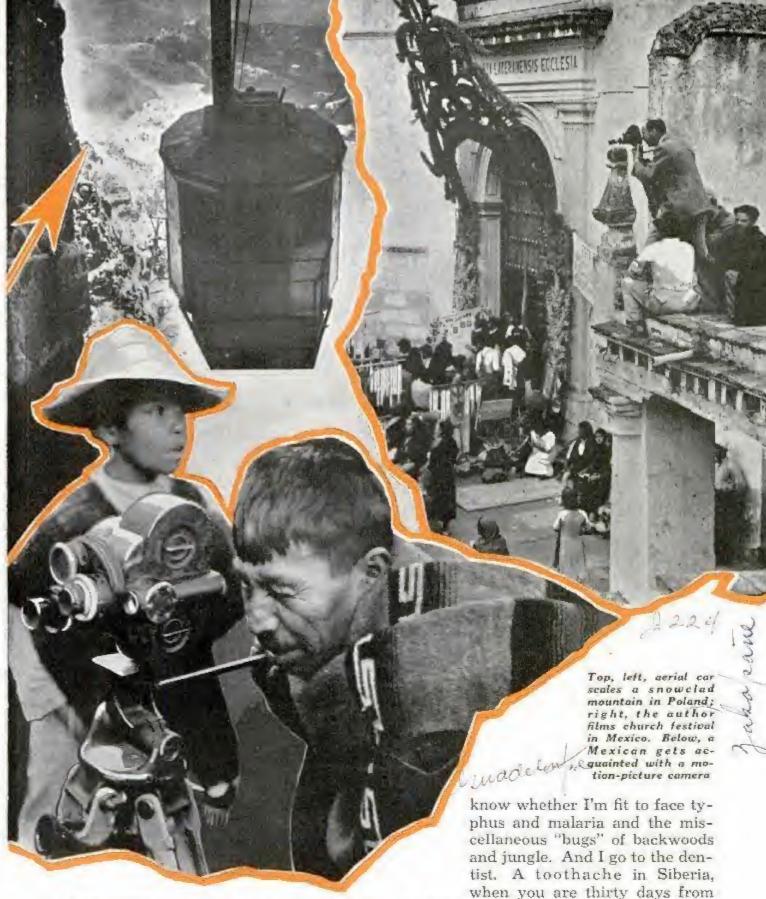
By JULIEN BRYAN

Part I

has been a sprained ankle followed by a bad infection. Over in Siberia, without a doctor or a hospital, that

might have meant gangrene, probably the loss of a leg. But it happened at White Plains, N. Y. I was thrown from a horse.

As a "foreign reporter," each year I cover some country with movie and still cameras, spending some time in large cities—Moscow, Tokyo, Istanbul—but a great share of the time filming life in the interior.



I have taken cameras where cameras are feared and where they are forbidden. Naturally these expeditions bring thrilling adventures, but they are just the byproduct: my job is to cover the ground, get the photographs, bring them and myself safely back to the United States. Cameramen like myself are cautious rather than reckless. Before and after an expedition, I have a physical examination; I want to

when you are thirty days from the nearest dentist, rather hampers your efficiency as a photographer. Savage tribes are no cause for worry.

Savage tribes are no cause for worry. Among primitive peoples the white man who is friendly, decent and polite is almost always received hospitably. Only twice have we carried a gun, and then it was hidden lest the natives become suspicious. Never have we been waylaid by bandits. Disease is the danger. Once in southern

POPULAR MECHANICS

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Russia fourteen of an expedition of sixteen were ill because they failed to boil drinking water. Once I was stranded with fourteen Americans and 800 peasants on a steamer on the Volga. That night we discovered the ceiling of every cabin covered with anopheles mosquitoes—malaria carriers! For a solid hour we swatted them until certain all were killed; then for ten days we took quinine, just to be sure.

You're likely to be accepted as a medicine man by the tribes you meet. In 1933 Tom Cobb and I led an expedition over the rugged Caucasus to Svanetia, a fantastic little country of 20,000 people, shut off from the world by mountains. We called it the land without wheels, for the natives had never seen a simple wagon wheel, although airplanes had flown over their land. For transportation they had only oxen and huge, cumbersome sleds.

For five days our party, with three pack horses and three guides, slipped and stumbled up and

down the steep walls of the Caucasus, at times digging a path in the cliff for our exhausted horses. More than once our entire group held a horse to the cliff, some clinging to the bridle and others pulling his tail to keep him from dropping a sheer thousand feet. We crossed and recrossed more than thirty glacial torrents. Food ran short, and we shared dry bread, tea, and once a day a can of sardines divided among six of us. Our compensation was the sight of this hidden garden spot; valleys filled with



Photos © Julien Bryan Two scenes in the soviet "Park of Culture and Rest" in Moscow. Mr. Bryan's movie camera took a dizzy ride in the swinging seat at top. Below, caricatures in park deride the soviet railroad administration



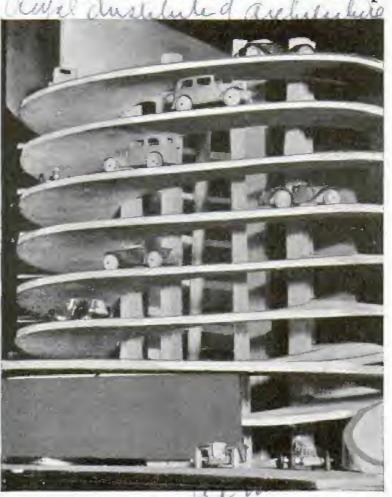
in Siberia is particularly in-(Continued to page 132A)

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Cars in Twin Spiral Garage Can't Collide on the Ramp

116 100



Model shows how cars travel upward on one spiral and down the other, avoiding the danger of head-on collisions

Automobiles may travel up and down in a "oneway" garage, designed in England, without danger of collision, because those going in opposite direc-

tions are carried on separate ramps due to its double spiral construction. No attendants are required on any of the floors, since cars are directed throughout the structure by a mechanical shunting arrangement which is controlled automatically from a switchboard at the entrance.

Tough Beef Made Tender Quickly With Aid of Light Rays

Tough beef can be made tender quickly by a new process involving air conditioning and ultraviolet rays. Worked out by the Mellon Institute, the method makes possible the raising of all types of beef by one grade in palatability rating. Toughness in steaks is caused largely by connective tissues that bind together in small bundles the innumerable muscle fibers,

rycer audia ly

and it has been known for centuries that these connective tissues are softened by hanging. At customary storage temperatures of about thirty-five degrees Fahrenheit, this takes from four to eight weeks. The trick of the new process is to use high temperature and humidity to speed up the chemical reactions that turn tough tissue into a material easy to bite through. However, these conditions are ideal for growth of both bacteria and molds, so the "sterilamp" developed by Westinghouse was brought into use to kill the micro-organisms with its powerful ultraviolet radiations. Now it is possible to ripen beef in a temperature of sixty degrees, and a relative humidity of eighty-five to ninety per cent, within one to three days, about nineteen times faster than by the old method.

Permanent-Magnet Chuck Requires No Current

Electric current is unnecessary with a chuck of permanent-magnet type just put on the market. All electrical connections, switches, brushes, wires and auxiliary generators are eliminated. The magnet, made of a special alloy, has high power and indefinite



High-power magnet of this chuck obviates use of electricity, and magnetism lasts indefinitely

Brown and Sharp

life. Since it does not depend on current, there is no danger of the work being thrown off or released by power failure. The chuck has strong holding power and is adaptable for grinding and light cuts on lathe work and other machine operations.

Stoker-Type Kitchen Range Provides Heat Control

Heat control that is possible with gas and other fuels is made available now in a coal-burning range for the kitchen. It is stoker-fired, providing steady heat and efficient combustion through the underfeed method. Oven temperature is controlled automatically. It is unnecessary to bank and restart fires, for firing is continuous, and ashes are easily removed. The stoker motor has a builtin overload protector.

Phantom drawing of kitchen stove shows stoker motor and screw which deliver coal to burner at left

mellea a

Skier Spreads Wings on Hill to Hold His Speed in Check



Skier's wings are opened like sails to check his speedy downward glide on straight, fast hills, which he negotiates without the usual turns

Worn like webs between his arms and body, a pair of "wings" enables a skier to control the speed of his descent on steep hills. In tests of the parachute idea, brought here from Europe, a sportsman at Sun Valley, Ida., demonstrated

the braking ability of the billowing cloth

on straight downgrade runs.

Flashlight Has Built-In Tester for Auto Bulbs and Fuses

Without affecting its primary
purpose of casting
a beam of light, a
flashlight with extra contact points,
now on the market, is used for
testing headlight

bulbs and automobile fuses. Strongly made of fiber and Bakelite, it can be handled like any other tool without fear of breakage.

Send return postage to our Bureau of Information to learn the name of the maker of any device described in this magazine.

1223.

SUPER-FIREBOAT Quards



Most powerful of the battery of monitors on the "Fire Fighter" is the bow "gun" which shoots 6,500 to 10,000 gallons of water a minute for hundreds of feet. Combined capacity of two monitors shown at left, on upper deck, is 5,000 gallons a minute. Below, ffreman looks through one of the tips of the bow monitor, a sixty-fivepound ring of bross through which a roaring stream of water races at high pressure

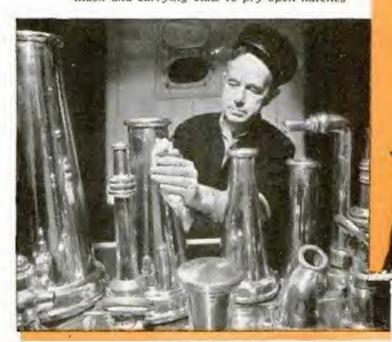
Pride of the fleet of ten fireboats that guard the 578mile New York waterfront with its billions of dollars in warehouses and factories, ocean liners and freighters is the "Fire Fighter," million-dollar vessel that is the Roating equivalent of twenty land companies. Its twin sixteen-cylinder Diesel engines propel the ship at nineteen miles an hour and develop enough current to light a city of 150,000. Below, left to right: pilot at wheel while captain talks by shortwave radio to land station; spectacular display of plumes from nozzles that discharge 20,000 gallons of water a minute; view of power plant from stern. The "Fire Fighter" is 134 feet long with thirty-twofoot beam. Besides hoses, drills, torches, foam and other chemical equipment it has carbon-dioxide tanks to protect itself from internal fires



MANHATTAN WATERFRONT



Above, raising the thirty-six-loot water tower, most spectucular of "Fire Fighter's" projecting units, which rises fifty-five feet above water line when fully extended. Electric motars rotate its nozzle to discharge in any direction a stream of 3,000 gallons per minute, high enough to reach top decks of liners. The drums seen at stern are hose reels. Right, fireman equipped to penetrate smoke-filled hold, wearing oxygen mask and carrying claw to pry open hatches



Left, polishing the fireboat's brass nozzles. They are designed to meet every situation in a water-front blaze. Notice "pepperbox" nozzle at center, and right-angle nozzle for reaching difficult spots

Spotlight Talks to Audience as Its Light Bulb Blinks



Speaker's voice is picked up by microphone in flashlight and varies beam reaching electric "eye"

Words travel on light beams of a "talky ing flashlight" that is part of the research exhibit of General Motors at the Golden Gate fair. It is an ordinary flashlight, but with a microphone built into the battery end. This "mike" picks up sounds, which are transferred into electric vibrations and sent through a transformer. The transformer varies the battery current and thus modulates the brilliance of the flashlight bulb, which is focused on a photoelectric cell. Varying light reaching the cell is changed into pulsations which emanate from a loud speaker as sound.

Rotating Wiper for Windshields



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Windshields of airplanes as well as of land and water vehicles can be kept clear under all conditions by a rotating wiper operated by a small electric motor. Designed originally for aviation use,

its application has been extended to include ships, small boats, trains, buses and trucks. Anti-icing fluid, fed through the blade onto the windshield, stops the formation of ice, and boats navigating salt water may pump fresh water through the wiper to keep salt from encrusting the glass. Invisible to the pilot while it is spinning, the wiper blade is rotated by a flexible shaft passing through a hole in the windshield, and a dash control regulates its speed at any point up to 2,500 revolutions per minute.

Vacuum Cleaner Mows Grass and Collects Cuttings in Bag

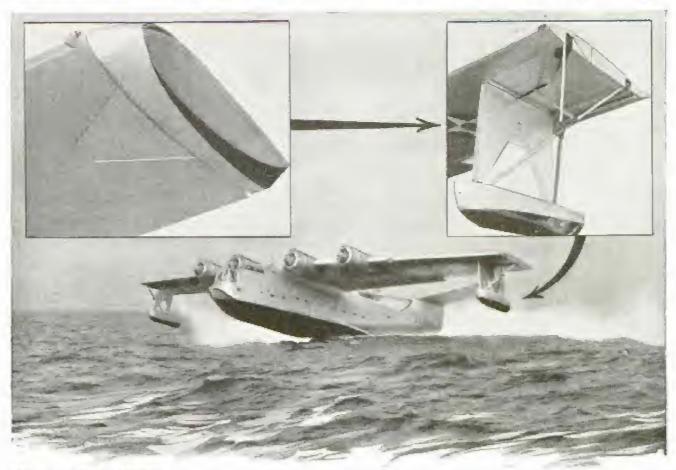
Harnessing a cutter to his vacuum cleaner, a Californian has invented an electric lawn mower. One advantage of the vacuum method is that weed seeds, instead of being scattered, are drawn into the bag with the grass cuttings. The sickle is driven by pulleys attached to the hub of the fan. Cutter bar and sickle can be attached to any vacuum cleaner.



After cutting head clips the grass, the vacuum cleaner collects cuttings and weed seeds in bag

sociales Isarden City

Floats of Flying Boat Retract into Wing Tips



Official U. S. Navy photograph

The Consolidated "XPB2Y-1" caught at the instant it stepped from the water for full flight. Insets show wing-tip floats in retracted and lowered positions; they are sturdily built to support ship in heavy seas

To cut down their drag while in flight, the skiff-like floats of the giant "XPB2Y-1" flying boat withdraw into the wing tips, and it takes just thirty seconds to raise or lower them. The torque-tubes of the retracting mechanism travel through 100 feet of wings from the power source and must

turn 3,000 revolutions per minute. As the ship prepares to alight on the water, the lowered floats act as air brakes to slow the approach. The navy has not yet released the details or performance records of this four-motored patrol bomber built by Consolidated Aircraft Corporation.

Red Light Halts Cars on Airport Road as Planes Land

They take no chances on airplanes crashing into automobiles on the road that skirts Bolling Field, Washington, D. C. After several narrow escapes from collisions, a traffic light was erected and as planes dip low to land on the runway the airport traffic control tower sets the light red against automobiles. A warning sign emphasizes the danger.



Military plane skims over highway at edge of Bolling Field, Washington, while red light halts automobile traffic until air is clear

apl. C. K. electivete

HERMITS of the



Top, left, replacing big radio tubes requires skill and dexterity. Right, main power panel controlling primary source of supply. Circle, when weather is bad, the "hermits" can't get home at all, so cots at the Wayne plant find plenty of takers

originate. Their haunt is usually a plain stone building, set on a desolate salt marsh or on the banks of a river. And there, under the shadow of a giant steel antenna, they spend their days, maintaining and operating the equipment which generates the carrier frequency over which radio programs are transmitted for many miles. There are hundreds of such

hermits in the complex world of broadcasting. With 114 stations on its network, the Columbia Broadcasting System, for example, requires almost a thousand transmitter technicians, working in 114 separate plants all over the country. A majority of these plants are out in the country, five to thirty miles away from the studios.

The largest—and perhaps the loneliest—

MOST people would be surprised to know that "hermits"—men who work at lonely radio transmitter plants—make it possible for radio programs to reach their homes with the volume and clarity so common today.

Transmitter technicians seldom see a radio star or go to a broadcast, for they work and dwell far away from the chromiumplated, streamline studios, where programs Pegheren war



POPULAR MECHANICS



ioned receivers, which are not able to tune out the powerful waves of a nearby transmitter. If the transmitter were situated in the middle of a city, thousands of listeners would be unable to hear any other station. A third reason, probably the most important, is that flat lands with high soil conductivity are most desirable. Wet soil has the highest conductivity.

Therefore, the most efficient radio transmitters are located on salt marsh or partly flooded areas."

Their marshy environment has made double hermits out of the Wayne technicians. In the spring particularly, when a stream near by, swollen with winter snows, overflows its banks, they may be cut off from train, bus and automobile service for days on end. Several boats are always in readiness for such emergencies. In these, the men navigate back and forth from the main building to their homes on higher land several miles away. If they need pure distilled water for their water-cooling equipment, they must row to a distant town, and bring back the bottles a dozen at a time. When the weather is very bad,

they don't go home at all, but sleep in the plant itself. Provisions are also made for cooking in a modern, wellequipped kitchen, complete with electric icebox, stove, sink and table.

The Wayne plant consists of a large brick building, a small coupling house several yards away, and a 550-foot vertical guyed steel tower, mounted on a large insulator. The first floor of the main building houses the power equipment, including transformers, filter condensers, and the watercooling system for the power tubes. Power coming from two different

sources reaches the power mat in the rear of the building at 4,400 volts. Here it is stepped down to 440 volts before entering the building. The transmitter power equipment steps it back up to 18,000 volts, and rectifies it to direct current for use in the transmitter.



Top to bottom, photos showing how useful hip boots are to the radio "hermits" when flood waters rise around the Wayne plant

Washbasin Built in Fender for Convenience on Tour



Washing up in the basin built into the waste space beneath the front fender of the car

Latest in the long line of automobile accessories is a washbasin. Introduced chiefly as a convenience for motorists on tours, the basin drops down from its recessed hiding place in the broad "skirt" of the front fender, where it occupies otherwise waste space.

All-Wheel Drive Takes Oil Men through Swamp and Ditch

Oil prospectors can't always follow paved roads to their buried treasure. They must travel over mountains and deserts, backwoods and swamps—and one answer to the problem of getting there with heavy loads of prospecting and drilling equipment is



Oil drillers' rig mounted on truck whose all-wheel drive can negotiate hill country, swamp or desert

the all-wheel-drive truck. With power applied to front as well as rear wheels the truck can walk through bog or ditch, snow or loose gravel. Heavy-duty trucks of this type can carry as much as twenty-five tons of drill rig and machinery.

New Engines to Use Safe Fuel

Danger of fine may be reduced in aviation, Frank C. Mock, of Bendix Aviation Corporation, says, by designing new engines to use denser fuels which have a "flash point" high enough to prevent explosions. To burn the special fuel, now available, the familiar carburetor will have to be replaced by special fuel injectors but larger and more powerful engine cylinders may be possible. The problem of starting such an engine presents difficulties, but it is believed that injection pumps and controls already being made could be used. It is estimated that development of a satisfactory engine would require five years.

Four-Place Twin-Engine Plane Is Copy of Big Air Liner

Having all the instruments and controls required as standard equipment on some of the large transports, a twin-engine pusher plane has been completed for feeder serv-



Four-passenger plane has controls like those in giant air liners. Wheel in nose keeps it level

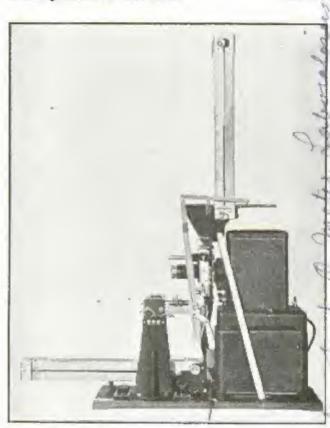
ice between local points and airports on the main routes. The sleek ship, built by Miller Aircraft company, carries four passengers and has a retractable tricycle landing gear. Driven by two Menasco engines of 125 horsepower each, the plane's top speed is 175 miles per hour, cruising speed 153 miles. Flaps on both the leading and

Springfield, m

trailing edges of the wings permit landing on small fields at speeds lower than fifty-five miles. The black and green ship, costing about \$15,000, is twenty-six and onehalf feet long and has a wingspread of thirty-eight feet. Besides being suitable for feeder service, it may be used as a training plane for air lines having no other small two-engine planes for that purpose.

Slide Feeder for Projector Keeps Views in Order

Projection of photographic glass slides has been made automatic by a motor-driven feeder that shows 250 views without interruption. Slides drop from an upright chamber above the machine, are there projected, and then proceed to the lower chamber where they are kept in the correct order. The two containers are interchangeable. Each picture can be shown for the same length of time by setting a self-contained timer, or if desired the operator may vary the time at will by remote control.



Slides drop from upright holder into machine, are projected, then move to horizontal holder below

"Coupe" Car for Rail Crew Offers All-Weather Comfort



Demonstrating the modern comforts of the railroad inspectors'
"coupe" motorcar at a railway equipment show

You'd scarcely recognize the old familiar handcar in its modern dress. In the first place it is no longer a handcar but a motorcar, and now it has a roof and glassed-in front wall that provide weather

> protection for the inspection crew that must look over the track regularly, in hundred-degree heat or winter gale.

Pocket Size Electrical Tester Operates with Small Battery

Ready for instant use a tester that fits in the pocket or may be attached to your belt needs no more electric current than that supplied by a small battery inside its case. In making tests of fuses, light bulbs,



radio bulbs, motors, electric wiring or any appliance, a red dot on the meter moves off the red line if the circuit is unbroken. Articles can be tested regardless of their voltage, but they must be detached from the power line or the current shuf off.

describble macherine

Canary Rides 'Piggy-Back' on a Pigeon in Cockpit



When a canary stows away for free trip on the pigeon express, the least it can do is sing for its ride

"Piggy-back" means pigeon-back to a canary that made a twenty-mile flight recently as a passenger. The canary was placed in a tiny streamline cockpit on the back of a homing pigeon to fly from Jersey City to New York, where it was presented to a child patient in a hospital.

Portable Sign in Tubular Bulb Is Easy to Change

Signs that can be moved about and changed by simply inserting a different strip into the unit, are made with the new fluorescent lamps. Used on sales counters, or in showcases and windows, they are adaptable for all kinds of businesses; small



Sign may be set anywhere in store and other wording substituted by removing outer tube from light bulb

or large. The light plugs into a movable base, and a clear acetate tube, fitting snugly over the illuminating bulb, holds a transparent printed slip in place. These lettered pieces can be changed quickly and as often as desired by slipping the outer tube off the bulb. Glareless lamps using thirty watts are supplied in any color.

Eight-Story Stainless-Steel Statue Tops Fair's Tallest Pavilion

Only the lofty trylon of the New York world's fair is higher than the 259-foot tower erected by Soviet Russia, tallest pavilion on the grounds. Topping it is an eight-story stainless-steel statue of a



Gigantic head and shoe lend idea of the vast size of stainless-steel "worker" topping soviet pavilion

worker, holding high a twelve-foot star. The boot alone is big enough for a comfortable bed and the worker's head is as large as a room. The statue weighs more than fifty-five tons and was shipped from Russia in twenty-five cases.







Above, at left, a subaqueous acrobat displays his skill on parallel bars, to the amazement of sea life in the neighborhood. If you think that's easy, try a hundred-yard dash on the ocean bottom. It seems farther than on land, as the winner thought when he breasted the tape, above at right. The crystal-clear water lures submerine photographers



Above, undersea high jumper clears a bar that no landlubbing athlete could reach, but the hard part is to come down on the other side. Left, you lead with the chin in taking the hurdles. Below, the losers in a submarine tug of war never worry about being "dunked"; they're all wet from the start

One stadium where they never post the sign: "Game postponed; rain, wet grounds" is the fish bowl at Silver Springs, Fla., scene of an underwater track meet. Spectators in subma-· rine "bleachers" enjoyed a series of athletic events that were breath-taking if not record-making

858 8 4

Safety Catch on Auto Door Guards Small Children



Child can't open rear door securely locked by catch shown in circle which unfastens only from outside

Small children, alone in the back of the car, cannot open the door if it is fitted with a safety catch available to Chevrolet owners. Tiny and inconspicuous, the lock does not interfere with operation of the front door, to which it is fastened by a set screw, but effectively prevents opening of the rear door from inside the automobile while the front door is closed.

Electric Clock on Steering Post Has Illuminated Dial



Fastened to the steering column of an automobile without any cutting, an electric clock held in full view of the driver has a light in its dial for easy reading at night. A

non-magnetic hairspring reduces the possibility of error in keeping time which might be caused by temperature changes.

Electric Mask for Hay Fever Filters Pollen and Dust

Hay-fever sufferers may obtain protection from pollen and dust in the air by wearing an electric mask just invented by a Cincinnati physician. It consists of two perforated sheets of thin aluminum separated by a sheet of filter paper that acts both as insulation between the outer, negatively charged aluminum plate and the inner, positively charged screen, and also as a mechanical filter. The mask fits over nose and mouth, cushioned against the cheeks by a gauze-covered rubber protector. Positively charged pollen is caught by the outer screen, negatively ionized grains are repelled by it; any particles that penetrate to the positive inner screen will have taken a negative charge from the outer screen and will be caught and held by the positive plate. A small dry cell, renewed once a year, is connected to the screens.



In addition to filter paper in this mask, electrically charged screens stop pollen and dust

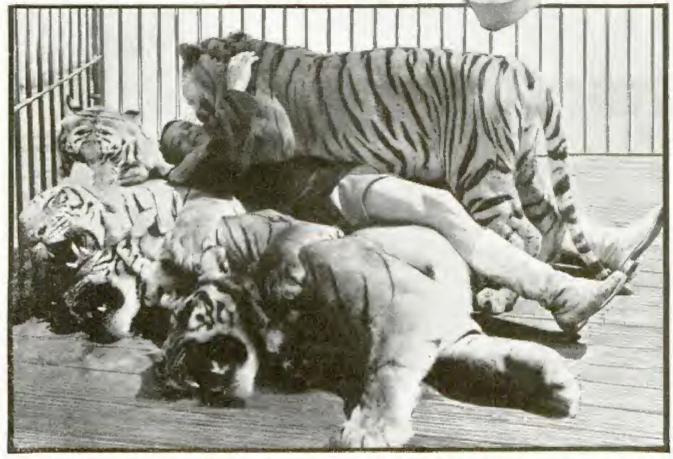
clergy Justan

Training the BIG CATS

"THE instant I tripped in the cage, the tawny Sumatra cat was on me like a flash," recalled Captain Roman Proske, who has trained animals for twenty-six years. "Almost before I fell, his teeth had sunk into my leg and a few seconds later the seven other tigers jumped in for the kill.

"There we were, a tangled, fighting mass on the cage floor while people in the audience screamed and fainted. Only I didn't die. Hudson Thomas's presence of mind got me out of that ghastly situation and into the hospital for eight weeks."





Top, a dangerous stunt with any of the cats, but particularly with the nervous tiger. Bottom, this one, too, holds a large element of danger for the trainer, Captain Proske



Top, remarkable photo of the Sumatra pouncing on Captain Prosks. Center, attendants helping the captain from cage after the attack. Bottom, lion with cubs born in captivity



ly, they keep an uneasy eye on one another. If the trainer should be charged by a tiger and one of the lions jumps in and fights that tiger, it is not because the lion is trying to save the man. The real reason is that the lion thinks the tiger is off guard and it would be a good time to press the attack.

"The lion is a great bluffer. He will roar first to scare a man and in that roar there is a warning. But a tiger never utters a sound before he springs. He may appear to be deceptively sleepy before he lunges, but when he does, it is silently and with lightning speed."

While all tigers are dangerous to train, the most vindictive is the smallest, the Sumatra, which weighs up to 250 pounds. Next is the Bengal tiger of India which attains a weight of 300 to 500 pounds. Third is the Manchurian cave tiger and fourth is the Siberian tiger, both of which may range up to 1,000 pounds. So treacherous are the Sumatra cats

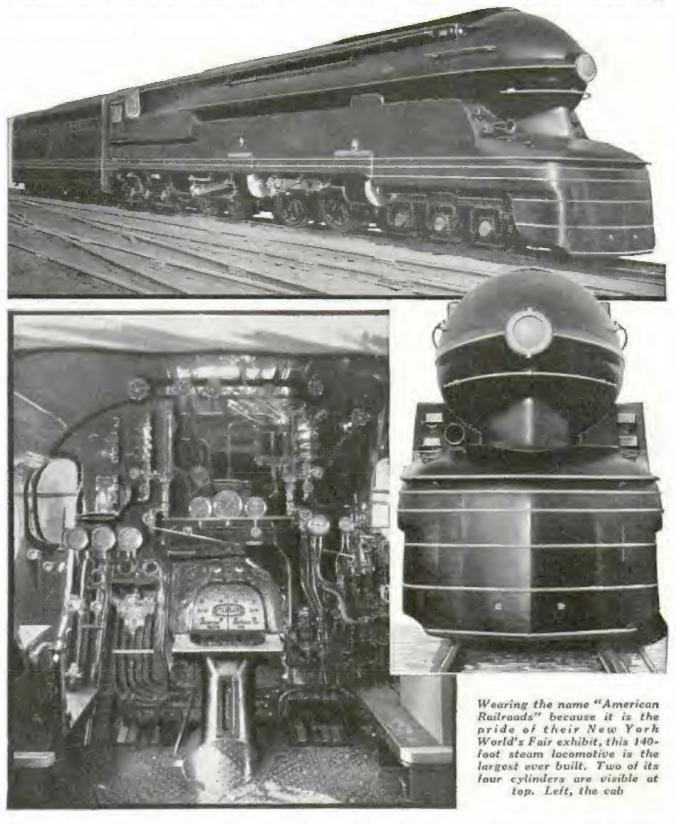
(Continued to page 146A)

Top, one stunt that pleases American audiences. Bottom, here's a big cat that Captain Proske taught to dance

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POPULAR MECHANICS?

Million-Pound Iron Horse Is 140 Feet Long



For a long time the Northern Pacific's "Yellowstone Mallet" locomotive was called the world's largest. Today there is a new champion, a million-pound goliath of the rails that measures 140 feet and one inch from its pilot to the coupler of its tender. It was designed by Raymond Loewy. Pride of the American railroads,

it is a focal part of their cooperative exhibit at the New York World's Fair, after which it will pull one of the crack passenger trains of the Pennsylvania, in whose shops it was built at Altoona. Developing 6,500 horsepower at 100 miles an hour, the locomotive is capable of hauling a four-teen-car passenger train at sustained

Automate POPULAR MECHANICS

speeds of 100 miles or better. Top speed/is unknown pending actual test runs after the fair, but it is believed it could pass with little effort the 127-mile record set by a Pennsylvania engine pulling the "Broadway Limited" in 1905. The "S 1," as the builders designate it, is a four-cylinder coal-burning locomotive of the 6-4-4-6 wheel type, each pair of cylinders providing power for two pairs of seven-foot drive wheels, with 300 pounds steam pressure. It delivers 76,400 pounds tractive effort. The engine alone weighs 600,000 pounds and its tender 452,200 more, loaded, the tender carries 50,000 pounds of coal and 24,500 gallons of water.

Fast Plane Smooth as Glass Has No Rivet "Buttons"

Airplane speed is given a boost by building wings and fuselages with flush rivets instead of the projecting "button" type. This kind of riveting has emerged recently from the laboratory and is going into the production lines. While it will add to the cost of construction, one engineer estimated that a 275-mile-an-hour airplane, held together with projecting rivets but otherwise "clean" aerodynamically, would be put in the 300-mile-an-hour class by this method. An average plane may contain 30,000 rivets.

4-256

Walls of Germ-Killing Light Protect Babies in Nursery



White lines sketched into the picture represent the invisible screen of ultraviolet light that purifies air in nursery

Invisible walls of light stand guard against germs at the entrance of each baby's room in a large nursery at Evanston, Ill. Fluorescent tube lamps along the ceiling project a screen of ultraviolet rays so powerful they would kill any germs drifting into the nursery cubicle.

Leather Boots for Hunting Dog Tailored to Fit the Feet



Fitting made-to-njeasure boot on hunting dog's paw

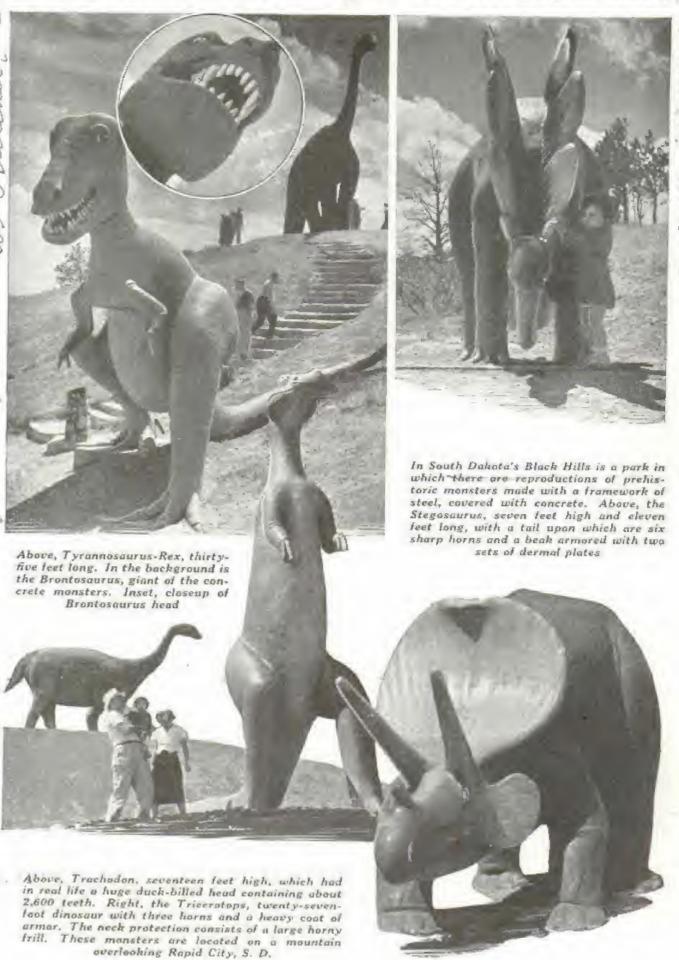
Hunting dogs that run through thick bramble and rough country often suffer from bruised and bleeding feet. So a Missouri harness maker fashions leather boots for dogs. They are tailored to measure, too. He first takes a cast of the dog's feet and from the casts shapes wooden models over which the leather boots are built basis.

 (IA fifty-foot motor cruiser built for the Sheik of Bahrein, on the Persian gulf, has underwater searchlights for navigating among uncharted reefs and shoals.

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POPULAR MECHANICS

Concrete Monsters Depict Prehistoric Life



POPULAR MECHANICS Wis

Photos of Star Trails Prove Rotation of Earth

Unusual photographs can be obtained on still, clear nights by pointing the camera upward and making long time exposures. They reveal the apparent movement of stars across the heavens, which actually is caused by rotation of the earth. A whirling vortex is the effect if the North Star is centered in the picture and exposed for two hours. By focusing on the different star groups and giving them an exposure of about ten minutes, familiar formations like the "Great Dipper," "Orion" and others make interesting patterns. It will be noted that each star describes an arc, those closest to the north pole traveling in a relatively small circle which becomes larger for stars as they near the celestial equator.

Slow-moving stars made this whirligig when the camera was pointed in a northwesterly direction and the film exposed two and one-half hours. Each star traces an arc



Electric Wave Walks in Slow Motion on Aluminum Bars

Electric waves in slow motion are reproduced mechanically by a "hobble skirt" developed by Westinghouse engineers. Resembling a streamline xylophone with

Aluminum bars trace in "slow motion" the wave surge of electric current while engineers simulate a short circuit on a power line

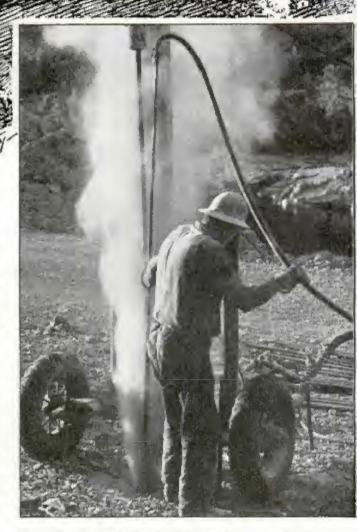
fifty-six long aluminum arms, the device is a working model of a transmission line on which a surge of electric current can be prolonged from 1/10,000 second to as much as five or ten seconds. The metal arms, springs and damping or resistance elements take the place of their electrical counterparts. As the first arm is moved up or down it transmits the movement successively to the rest of the arms in the form of a wave moving in a slow "walk," permitting the engineers to study what happens when a short circuit occurs.

and Kelo home Cotier.



GREATER than all England, California's rich Central Valley, encompassing 20,000 square miles, with 45,000 farms containing more than 3,000,000 highly productive acres, is a veritable modern "Valley of the Nile." From this valley come three-fourths of the world's supply of grapes, raisins and dried fruits and more than a quarter of all the vegetables purchased by American housewives.

Here the world's greatest reclamation drama is being enacted. The valley, for a number of years, has been in urgent need of rescue from the devastation of flood, drought, soil erosion and salt-water encroachment. To escape disaster it must have a controlled water supply. Thus the great \$170,000,000 Central valley project was born to supply that necessary water to the semi-arid region comprising the Sacramento and San Joaquin river valleys.



Top, drawing of Shasta Dam and power plant. Bottom, workman blowing rock dust from hole being drilled at Shasta Dam site

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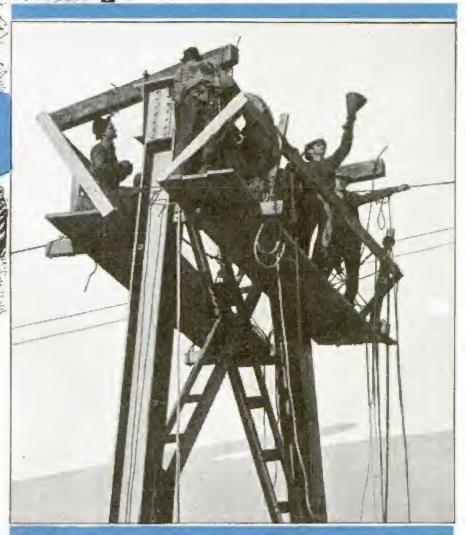
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VALLEY of the NILE"

The project, which is under construction supervised by the United States bureau of reclamation, is considered the greatest of its kind ever undertaken. The combination of the Shasta dam. the Friant dam, low dams and pumping plants, and 350 miles of canals and conduits is expected to solve irrigation, saltwater infiltration, highwater problems in interior California, and lengthen the navigable length of the Sacramento river to Red Bluff, 142 miles above Sacramento.

Mechanical ingenuity and the pressure of fresh water from Shasta dam are depended on to prevent encroachment of salt water from San Francisco bay upon the rich farming lands of the Sacramento river—San Joaquin river delta, thereby rescuing



ein ud clam



Top, right, riggers at work on one of the piers for railroad bridge downstream from Shasta Dam. Bottom, tightening cable jewels in east anchorage of new bridge



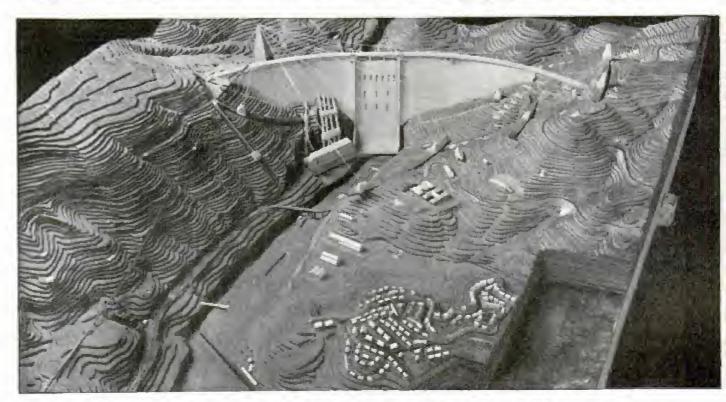
more than 400,000 acres or highly developed land now in danger of reverting to salt marsh. During periods of low flow in the two rivers, salt water now penetrates the channels from which these lands are irrigated. In consequence of this saline condition more than 20,000 acres of rich land already have had to be abandoned.

More than a million of the 2,000,000 acres to be irrigated by the project face an acute irrigation crisis. In the San Joaquin valley the extraction of water from the

ground by pumping greatly exceeds the annual natural replenishment by rainfall and stream flow. Between 40,000 and 50,000 acres of producing lands have been abandoned because of lack of water, and 200,000 acres are in the process of gradual reversion to desert. At least 800,000 acres are not adequately protected against the blight of drought or salinity.

Key to the valley's water problem is the Sacramento river. It is not generally known that the

Sacramento is a considerably mightier stream than the Colorado river. The mean annual runoff of the Sacramento river is 21,000,000 acre-feet, while that of the Colorado is 16,000,000. The combined annual discharge of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers into the ocean has averaged about 30,000,000 acre-feet, which is water enough to cover every irrigated acre in the Central Valley to a depth of ten feet. The water supply is ample; it needs only proper seasonal and geographical distribution.



Top, cores taken from earth to sample underground structure at Friant Dam site. Bottom, construction model showing details of the 560-foot Shasta Dam and near-by region

Major unit of the Central Valley project is Shasta dam on the upper Sacramento river north of Redding. A mass of concrete that will rise higher than the tallest skyscrapers in California, this dam will be 560 feet from the lowest point of foundation in bedrock to the top of the dam, 3,500 feet long on the crest, and will contain about 5,700,000 cubic yards of concrete, enough to build a solid concrete monument a block square and slightly higher than New York's Empire State building. It will be even more massive than famed Boulder dam on the Colorado river.



Top, drill rig at railroad by-pass tunnel entrance. Center, perspective of project. Bottom, working on Friant Reservoir survey

Behind Shasta's wall of concrete will be stored four and one-half million acre-feet of water, which will permit operation of this giant reservoir for multiple purposes of conservation. It will take the peak off the extreme floods which sometimes devastate the Sacramento valley and will stabilize the year-round flow of the Sacramento river to permit a restoration of (Continued to page 116A)

640-Pound Airplane Engine Produces 500 Horsepower



Inspecting twelve-cylinder airplane engine developing one horsepower for each 1.28 pounds of weight

Delivering more than three-fourths horsepower for each pound of its weight, a twelve-cylinder "Ranger" airplane engine tested recently weighs 640 pounds, but develops a maximum of 500 horsepower for take-off. It is air cooled.

Sliding-Roof Home Observatory Requires No Dome

Instead of building the usual dome, an amateur astronomer has secured complete protection for his instruments in a box-



Roof of home observatory rolls out of way so amateur astronomer can point telescope into night sky

shaped building with a sliding roof. It is an ordinary frame structure twelve feet square, sheathed with shingles and lined with insulating board. The roof rolls outward on two four-by-four beams, projecting twelve feet from the side, which carry a U-shaped iron track to guide six ball-bearing casters. When closed the roof is locked by two large hooks and screw eyes. The telescope is mounted permanently on a six-inch pipe set upright in concrete.

Moisture in Soil Is Measured by Current in Gypsum Block

Quick measurement of the amount of moisture in the soil, an important factor in crop production, can be obtained by a method developed at the Michigan agricultural experiment station at East Lansing. It was found that moisture in a block of gypsum buried in the earth varies with moisture in the surrounding soil, and electric conductivity of the block varies with its moisture. So a gypsum block of standard size, with wires attached to it leading to a source of current and a meter, is buried and the reading taken.

Auto Battery Charger on Wheels Works Faster and Cheaper

9.28/



Shown in the trailer is quick-working battery charger that has its own casters for hauling it to car

Charging of automobile batteries, heretofore a slow process, has now caught up with the age of speed. A new charging unit for service stations will perform the task without removing the battery in twenty to forty-five minutes, and at less cost, while the car is in the shop for lubricating, washing, motor tune-up or other minor service. Expense of renting a tem-

a 660 Washing in Blan

porary battery is saved, and but three cents' worth

of electricity is consumed per battery charged by this quick-current method. Rolling on ball-bearing casters, the charger is moved about easily, and a built-in testing device indicates the condition of the battery so the owner may know immediately whether or not it will take and hold a charge. Frequent chargings prolong the battery's life by preventing formation of the crystalline deposit on plates which occurs when the charge is low. The portable machine, which feeds rather than forcing the charge, is an adaptation of the constant potential method of charging and has automatic

controls to forestall any damage to the battery.

With little difficulty, the

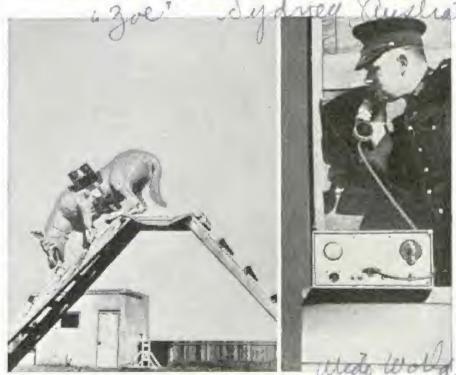
charger may be placed on

a small trailer or light

truck and taken out on

emergency calls.

Police Dog Carries a Radio
and Follows Its Commands



While police officer gives orders into microphone at headquarters, dog carrying receiving set obeys the command to climb and descend ladders

Police at Sydney, Australia, have trained an Alsatian dog to obey commands issued by radio. The dog carries a miniature receiving set strapped on her back. In response to orders spoken into a microphone at police headquarters the animal will walk up and down a ladder, turn a tap on and off, put on her own collar and take it off and fire a revolver.

Making Three-Dimension Snapshots with Any Camera



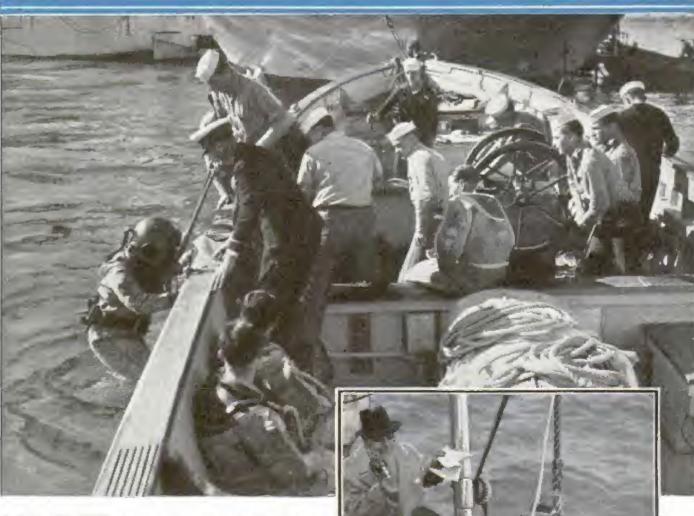
Attachment in front of lens converts camera into stereoscopic instrument making three-dimension pictures with one exposure

Any camera can be used for three-dimension pictures by adding an attachment just put on the market. With the two-windowed device fitted in front of the camera lens, a single click of the shutter takes two pictures from different angles on the same film. Seen through the stereoscopic viewer which is furnished with the attachment, the twin pictures have the appearance of depth.

(Names and addresses of manufacturers and dealers in articles described in this magazine will be furnished by our Bureau of Information upon request accompanied by stamped envelope.

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Below the OCEAN'S



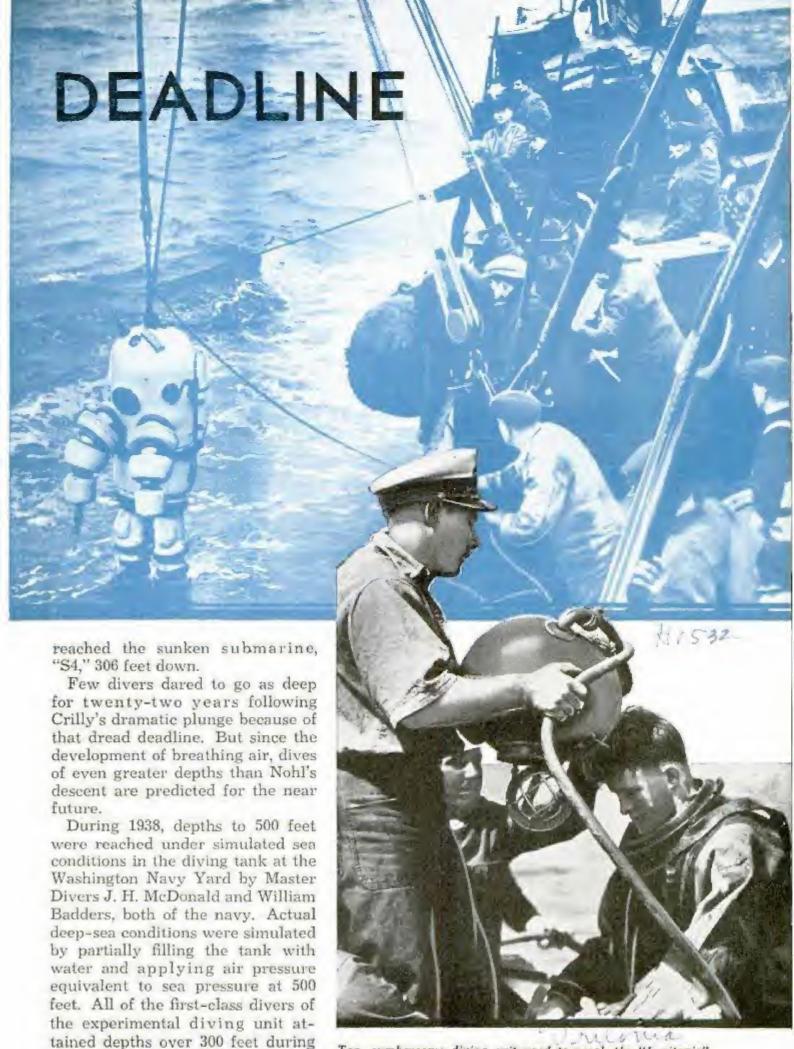
WHETHER divers are engaged in a desperate attempt to free a submarine trapped hundreds of feet beneath the surface, salvaging the cargo of a sunken vessel or seeking treasure upon the ocean floor, their most deadly peril is an invisible one.

Ever since science made it possible for human beings to submerge in diving helmets and rubber suits, the "bends" or caisson disease has placed a deadline upon the distance which they could safely descend, and the amount of time which they could remain at that depth. Now, however, after years of experiments and research, science is succeeding in conquering that deadline with the same gas, helium, which has made lighter-than-air flying safer.

In December, 1937, using a mixture of helium and oxygen, called "breathing air," Max G. Nohl descended to a depth of 420 feet below the surface of Lake Michigan, shattering a record made in 1915 when Frank Crilly in Pearl Harbor, Honolulu,

Top, U. S. Navy diver being lowered. Bottom, Max Gene Nohl after record-breaking dive. Note 360degree visibility helmet

Schnichmanne



the experiments and during open-

Top, cumbersome diving suit used to reach the "Lusitania" at 312 feet. Bottom, placing helmet on navy diver



great depths emphasized the necessity for devising a means whereby in case of such accident, assistance, if necessary, could be rendered by divers," says a navy spokesman.

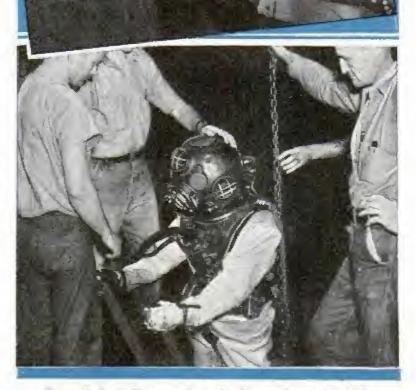
"Various types of armored deep-sea diving apparatus were investigated, with the conclusion that while such apparatus may be beneficial for observation purposes, all of them precluded the per-

sea tests on board the U.S.S. "Falcon," Badders made a dive to more than 400 feet.

Rear Admiral W. G. Du Bose, chief of the Bureau of Construction and Repair, Navy Department, says that results of experiments indicate that attainment of greater depths than 500 feet is possible. But even 500 feet below the surface represents a tremendous victory in shattering the ocean's deadline. Many of the great lost treasures in sunken vessels lie at much less than this depth. The ill-fated "Lusitania," with a fortune in gold bullion in her hull, lies in only 312 feet of water. Captain John Craig, noted deep-sea diver who cooperated with Nohl in inventing many of the devices used in the latter's record dive, has a list of ninetytwo such vessels which are said to have nearly \$2,000,000,000 in their hulls.

The original intention of the U.S. Navy in conquering the ocean's deadline was to come to the aid of submarines.

"With submarines being constructed to operate at ever increasing depths, the possibility of the sinking of such vessels in



Top, student diver ready to be lowered over the side of training boat. Center, operating decompression chamber. Bottom, diver in full rig enters pressure tank for test of deep-sea equipment

formance of any actual work of the nature involved in naval salvage operation."

Treasure hunters discovered the same thing. With the exception of an Italian diving company which in 1932 salvaged the treasure of the S.S. "Egypt" lying in the Bay of Biscay and divers of the British Admiralty who succeeded in recovering almost \$25,000,000 from the hull of the "Laurentic," most of the treasure seekers returned home empty-handed. Man-made monsters and diving bells were all right for sub-surface exploration, but when it came to the actual work of getting into the wrecks and removing the treasure, rubber diving suits were necessary to permit the divers to move freely.

But here the dreaded ocean deadline intervened, becoming a hazard even at the lesser depths to which the divers managed to descend. With normal compressed air, the maximum depth which could be attained was approximately 300 feet and the time that divers could stay at that depth with reasonable safety rarely exceeded fifteen minutes. Even for a quarter hour stay at that depth using ordinary compressed air, a decompression time of four to five hours was required.

"The chief difficulty in extending safely the limits of work conducted in compressed air arises from the fact that during compression and at the working pressure, the body fluids and tissues absorb a large volume of air in accordance with the physical law governing the solubility of gases in liquids," reported Dr. R. R. Sayers, formerly chief surgeon of the Bureau of Mines, U. S. Department of the Interior, who aided in the experiments leading to the use of breathing air.

"The difficulty arises during decompression or return to the surface. If the decrease in pressure is not carefully controlled, and suf-

(Continued to page 141A)

Batters Swat "Captive" Ball to Improve Their Hitting



Here's how a batter whose weakness is for high and outside pitches would use frame to obtain needed practice

To help his players overcome weaknesses in batting, Harvard's baseball coach, Floyd Stahl, has a training apparatus that holds a captive ball for batters to hit. It is a wooden frame with a rope running from the ground to a pulley six feet high. Mounted on the rope is a ball with a hole through its center so the height may be regulated. Hitters who have a known weakness for high or low pitches set the ball at the point where practice is needed, then stand close up or farther away to imitate inside and outside throws.

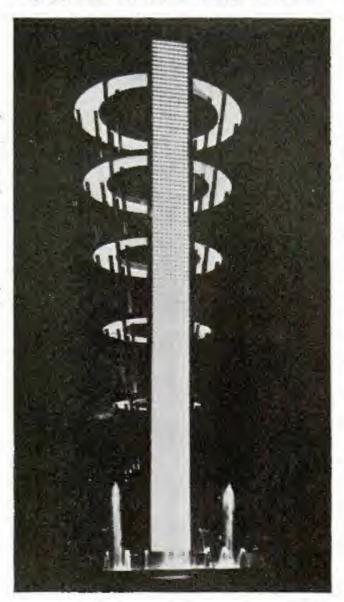
'Bottle Opener' for Removing Hub Caps Prevents Marring Finish

Applied like a bottle opener, a special tool for removing hub caps protects the chromium or paint finish of the cap from scratches. A slight, gradual pressure on the lever with one hand pulls the cap from the wheel.



metls md

Singing Light Tower at Fair Blends Music and Color



Ten-foot working model of Singing Light Tower with water fountains and lights dancing to the music

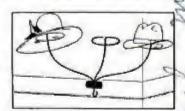
Rising 120 feet in the court of the Westinghouse building at New York World's Fair, is the "Singing Tower of Light" from which flows symphonic music, accompanied by ever-changing colored lights, water, fireworks and smoke. Formed by an open framework of six metal rings with a common center, supported by tubular rods, the tower appears to be built upside down, for the smallest ring is at the bottom and the others become progressively larger toward the top. The design is symbolic of insulators used in the electrical industry. Each of the concentric rings encloses a circle of floodlights bathing in many colors a cloud of smoke that drifts upward. As they reach heights up to seventy-five feet vertical jets

of water catch the colored beams, and fire works crown the display in myriad hues, all synchronizing with the musical notes. The entire exhibition is governed by eight main remote-control circuits, any of which may be stopped, started or changed in intensity at will, and some last-minute developments in illumination, hydraulics and control devices have been put into use.

Wire Hat Holder Saves Space in Clothes Closet

Unfortunate experiences and continued dissatisfaction with boxes, hooks and shelves for storing hats awakened the in-

ventive mind of a Kansas woman. Experimenting with wire, she bent and twisted it until a sort of three-armed rack was



fashioned, each arm being twelve inches long and terminating in a circular top to fit the crown of a hat. The holders, finished in attractive colors, have been found a real saving in closet space—and in hats.

License Plates Shingle a House and the Roof Is Leakproof

License plates were used for shingles when a house near Springer, Okla., needed a new roof. The home owner obtained 3,900 excess license plates from the factory in the state penitentiary and applied them in regular shingle fashion. The result is a leakproof roof with a distinctive pattern.



Oklahoma residence shingled with leftover license plates obtained from the state factory

2. 2. O C. rong Commence de deame

POPULAR MECHANICS

Giant Dredge Speeds Up Coal Production



Enormous dredging machine on tractor treads digs lignite from Germany's mines to speed up production.

You can get an idea of its size by noting tiny figure of man standing on upper deck

Designed for mining coal by the surface stripping method, a giant dredge weighing 1,200 tons and capable of shoveling 45,000 cubic yards in twenty-four hours has been developed in Germany to speed up production of lignite, or brown coal. Its weight is evenly distributed among 120 wheels,

and the machine can be transported by rail or on its tractor treads over a road. Rotating buckets on a swinging crane do the shoveling, each bucket holding forty cubic feet. Electricity supplies operating power. Lignite is one of the sources of chemicals being manufactured in Germany.

Pyramid of Concrete Balls Protects Shelter from Bombs

Experiments with airraid shelters in England have led to the development of a pyramid of huge balls reminiscent of the piles of cannon balls of old-time artillery. These balls, however, are of concrete. Heaped on the ground above a subterranean shelter, the balls proved a most effective shock absorber for bombs.

(Fireproof plaster to safeguard steel beams, which buckle in intense heat, has been developed at Mellon Institute of Industrial Research.



Concrete balls piled in pyramid at surface of a bombproof refuge deflect
the shock of explosives falling near the shelter

Wires Halt Aircraft Landing on Ship's Deck



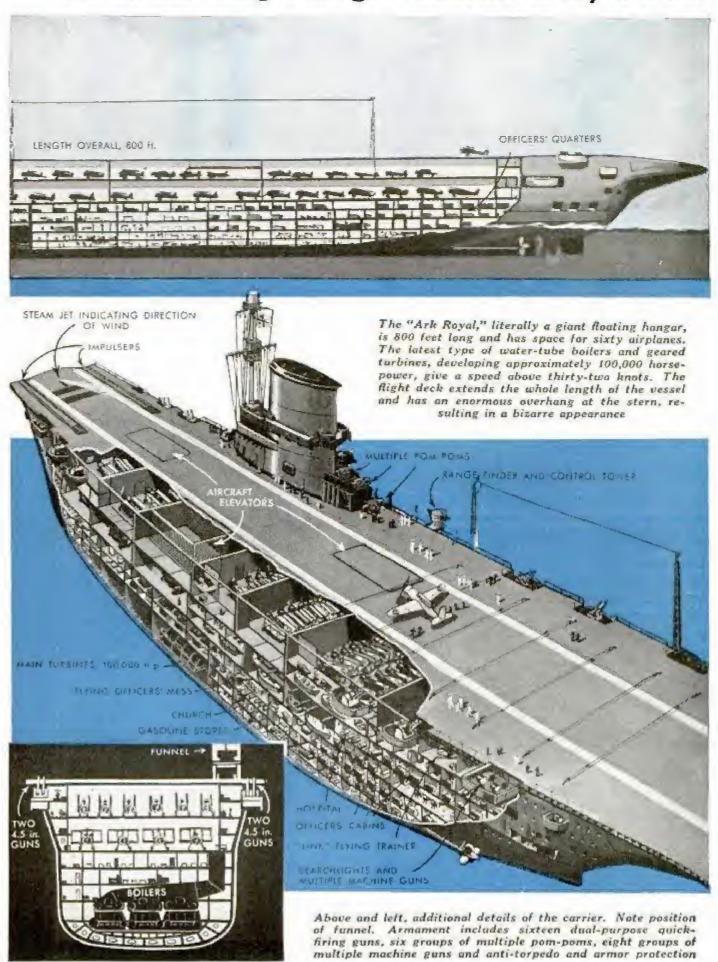


Among the many features of Great Britain's latest aircraft carrier, H.M.S. "Ark Royal," pictured at top in cross-section view, is a secret mechanism for halting planes as they land on the deck. This consists of wires stretched across the deck, as shown at left, sufficiently high to be engaged by a hook lowered by the pilot of an incoming plane. Forward of the vessel's hangars are two runways for a modified form of catapult, known in the service as "accelerators." Three elevators are provided for raising aircraft from the hangars to the flight deck. Drawings presented here were prepared with the aid of the British Admiralty

After the hook of the incoming plane has engaged one of the wires stretched across the carrier's deck, as shown at tight, a new type of arrester mechanism brings the plane to a stap without a jerh, applying a gentle braking action. The arrester device is of a secret nature. Note that the wires are not high enough to trip the plane



Giant Floating Hangar Carries Sixty Planes



880

Postman's Four-Wheel Scooter Speeds City Mail Delivery



Making rounds on homemade scooter. It stops automatically when he releases lever on steering post

Riding a four-wheel motor scooter of his own invention, Henry R. Smith, a mail carrier at Columbia, S. C., makes his rounds in twenty-three per cent less time than it used to take him walking. The scooter is economically driven by a five-eighths horsepower gasoline engine taken from a miniature automobile, with combination chain and belt drive to the ten-inch rear wheels. Driving is semi-automatic, the brakes being applied and the clutch disengaged when the postman releases the combination brake and clutch lever mounted on the vertical steering-wheel shaft. Top speed is twelve miles an hour.

Light Speed Measured Accurately by Splitting Up Beam

How to measure automatically the speed of light—about 186,000 miles per second with an error of less than two and onehalf miles per second has been solved by Dr. Wilmer C. Anderson of Harvard. The beam of a 1,000-watt projection lamp is fluctuated between bright and dim intensity 19,200,000 times a second. A small sheet of glass across its path splits the fluctuating beam, one side going up and down a hallway system of mirrors a distance of about 185 yards, and the other half being sent over a shorter path, about two yards long. By reuniting and focusing these two beams on a recording photoelectric cell, Dr. Anderson determines the wave length and multiplying wave length and frequency gives the speed. The equipment has been put to work solving one of the basic problems of modern physics and astronomy-whether the speed of light is constant under all conditions, or whether it varies. Many important theories are based on the assumption of constant velocity.

Two-Way Radio for Signal Corps Carried on Soldier's Back

Two-way radio telephones are being tested at the Signal Corps school at Fort Monmouth, N. J., for addition to the army's communication system. With this equipment, developed in laboratories of the Signal Corps, soldiers on foot can send or receive messages by ultra-short wave.



Soldier using handset of two-way radio with telescoping antenna being tested by Signal Corps

Cambridge

Air Tube Changes Glass in Welder's Helmet

Both of an arc welder's hands are left free to handle work by a helmet which does not have to be raised or lowered in striking or drawing the arc. Two lenses, one of very dark and the other of clear glass, are controlled by an air valve fitted to a tube to the worker's mouth. Blowing into the tube forces the clear glass into place, allowing the worker clear vision in striking an arc and relieving him of the necessity of raising his helmet each time to make the contact.

> Below, welding with black glass in place. Upper right, blowing into tube. Lower right, clear glass in place, permitting proper vision for striking arc



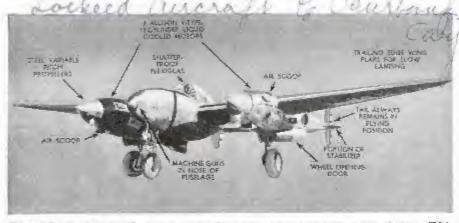




U. S. Army's Fastest Sky Fighter Flies 500 Miles an Hour

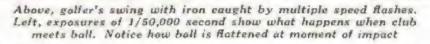
First small sky fighter with a supercharged cabin, the XP-38 is the U. S. army's fastest airplane with a top speed estimated at 500 miles an hour. It was this Lockheed battleplane that Lieut Benjamin S. Kelsey flew from the Pacific to New York in a little more than seven and a half hours. Its ceiling is nearly 30,000 feet. Nearly as smooth as curved glass, the twin-engine midwing craft is built of aluminum alloy, flush-riveted and butt-jointed, its wheels retracting in flight to achieve

almost ideal streamline form. Protected by a shatterproof hood, the pilot fires machine guns through the nose of the fuselage. A tricycle landing gear and trailing-edge wing flaps facilitate safe landings, the nose wheel keeping the tail always in flying position. Two 1,000-horsepower engines drive steel full-feathering, variable-pitch propellers.



The XP-38 at takeoff, before wheels were retracted into open doors. This ship spanned the continent in just over seven and one-half hours









A/HAT if yours is only an inexpensive camera? You can take speed pictures that are hard to beat. Faster films help you stop faster action. You can trick your shutter into snappier work. And there are several stunts that you can borrow from professional cameramen to "freeze" action on your film.

The new high-speed films that are on the market in popular sizes were developed primarily for making snapshots at night and if you use them in daylight at ordinary exposures they will be badly over-exposed. If you have been getting good results with ordinary film in sunlight at one-twenty-fifth of a second, load your camera with the new film and try it in sunlight at 1/100 of a second, four times as fast because the new emulsion is four times as sensitive as the old. This will help you get clear action pictures instead of blurred images. The fast film will help produce good pictures in the shade, or on cloudy days that



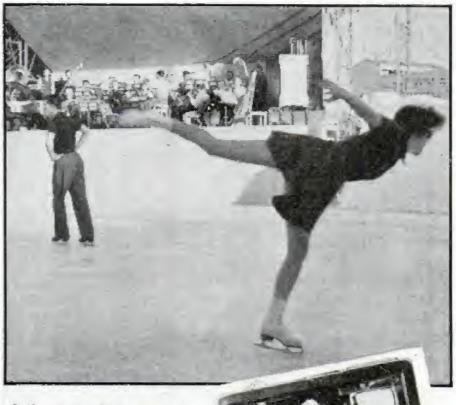
Photos courtesy Massachusetts Institute of Technology

gave you underexposed pictures before.

Fast camera speeds reduce the number of pictures that you may spoil by failing to hold the camera absolutely still when you push the trigger, although it is always well to hold the camera as still as you can. Fast speeds also help you get clear pictures of unposed action, but the trend today is not to stop all action completely. There is much more life in a picture of a baseball batter at the plate when a slight blur shows that he is swinging hard, than in a picture in which the bat is stopped completely by a fast camera.

Professional photographers get some fast-action results by planning the pictures ahead. At the automobile races, catch the cars coming out of a turn and entering the straightaway. Moving almost directly toward you, the cars don't have as much chance to cause movement on the film as they would if you shot them flashing by directly in front of you. At the end



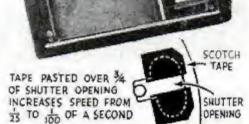


of the turn the cars are moving at their slowest speeds. Finally, much of the action and skidding occur in the turns and you are apt to get the most spectacular pictures there. Get down close to track level and don't try for action shots when the cars are closer than thirty or forty feet.

The rule to shoot action head-on or almost headon is one of the first things a photographer learns. Next, he learns to make action shots at the instant of minimum movement. Even a fast camera is apt to record a blur while making a picture of a pole vaulter on his way up to the crossbar. At the top, however, the athlete is practically motionless in the air and that is the time to get a sharp picture. A diver, a runner, and a galloping horse can be photographed the same way. There is always a moment of minimum motion.

If your camera will shoot at 1/100 of a second or faster there is another professional trick that will give surprising results. When a news photographer wants to "freeze" a speeding car he "pans" his camera, swinging it with the car at just the right speed to make the car stand still in his view finder. Then he clicks the shutter at will, certain he has stopped the action. In a pan shot, of course, the motionless background is fuzzy. Automobiles, speedboats, and similar moving objects close by are excellent subjects for pan shots.

Nearly half the cameras in existence, it is estimated, are of the inexpensive box type and practically all of these have a fixed shutter speed of one-twenty-fifth second. This slow speed gives a satisfactory picture of posed objects with ordinary film but it is useless





Box camera with shutter slit taped to one-fourth normal width, as shown in center, caught skater in action at top. Below, storm wave caught at 1/100 second

for action. In buying high-speed film, ask how many times faster it is than the film you have been using. If it is four times as fast you can increase the shutter speed four times, holding the lens open only one-quarter as long and converting your one-twenty-fifth of a second camera into one that shoots at 1/100 of a second.

With the camera unloaded, carefully unscrew the front plate that guards the lens and shutter mechanism. If necessary, bend flat the projecting exposure slide so that the guard plate may be slid out. The shutter is the black metal sheet that lies flat across the lens and the shutter opening is the curved open slot that moves across the lens when the trigger is clicked. Masking half of this slot with black Scotch tape or some other lightweight adhesive material doubles the shutter speed. To get a speed of 1/100 of a second, mask three-quarters of the opening. This must be done carefully so as not to upset the delicate bal-

ance of the shutter mechanism, (Continued to page 120A)

© A. C. Spalding & Bros.

Top, anti-aircraft machine gun snapped at momentary pause in action. Left, exposure of less than
one-millionth second shows glass cracking at blow of metal plunger in center. Right, exposures
1/600 second apart show club distorted by impact with ball

Rainproof Deskin Open Air Made of a Split Log



Top half of log is hollowed enough to fit over "desk" and form a rainproof cover

By splitting a log in half and joining the two sections with hinges, members of the C.C.C. built a weatherproof outdoor writing desk for the convenience of tourists and forest rangers in the Spearfish canyon of South Dakota's Black Hills. A planed section was beveled and fastened to the lower half of the desk to fit into the hollowed section of the upper part of the log. Messages can be left in it, and it can be locked with a padlock.

Gas-Tank Alarm Gives Warning to Prevent Overflow

Safer filling of gasoline tanks in motorboats is made possible by installing an alarm that whistles until the liquid reaches a point within two inches of the top of the tank. When the whistling stops, you stop filling. The unit is fitted to the tank at the opening provided for the vent pipe, and the vent tubing is then coupled to the alarm outlet. As air in the tank is displaced and

Untalem

driven out by the liquid, it creates enough pressure to blow the whistle. A piece of tubing from the signal projects downward two inches into the tank, and when the level of the liquid reaches the end of this tube air ceases to pass through it and the whistle stops. Installed in water and oilfuel tanks the signal prevents overflow.

Unit to Rebuild Worn Faucets Is Easily Installed

Worn faucets can be rebuilt entirely, regardless of corrosive condition, by a unit that replaces faucet stem, seat and thread with a metal valve. Washers



are eliminated. Easy to install, the unit consists of a lead and antimony gasket to seal the worn faucet seat; a threaded brass valve and brass seat as a single unit; a bronze valve stem, and a steel locking device to secure the handle to the valve stem.

Boat Is Towed Like a Trailer on Its Own Wheels

Always ready to be hooked to an automobile and towed over highways to the water like a trailer, a motorboat is



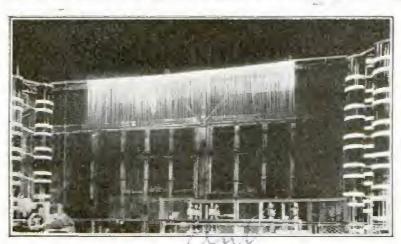
Boat as two-wheeled trailer towed by auto. Circle, wheels being flipped into boat after it is launched

R 206, 2832

equipped with folding wheels at the stern and a hitch at the bow. Rolling the craft by hand to the water and launching are accomplished with little effort, as the wheels may remain lowered until the boat is floating freely. Once afloat, the wheels are swung upward to rest in a special compartment where they are out of the way. It is just as easy to get the boat out of the water and back to the garage, which can be used as the boat well. A smooth-running six-horsepower motor drives the boat at ten miles an hour or throttles down to trolling speed. Four to six persons are carried safely in the fourteen-and-one-half-foot hull which has a sixty-inch beam. All exposed metal parts are cadmium-plated to prevent rusting.

Wire Hit by Artificial Bolt Is Vaporized in Sparks

In a blinding flash a discharge of man-made lightning evaporated a piece of fine wire stretched along its path during a recent test of the new General Electric artificial lightning generator for the New York World's Fair. The wire was strung up in the thirty-foot gap between the two terminals, and as a force of 10,000,000 volts was released the terrific power of the current quickly vaporized the strand which vanished in a brilliant miniature Niagara of sparks.



Spectacular display of falling sparks followed lightning discharge as wire in its wake disappeared into thin air

Signpost to Half the World Points Way for Air Pilots



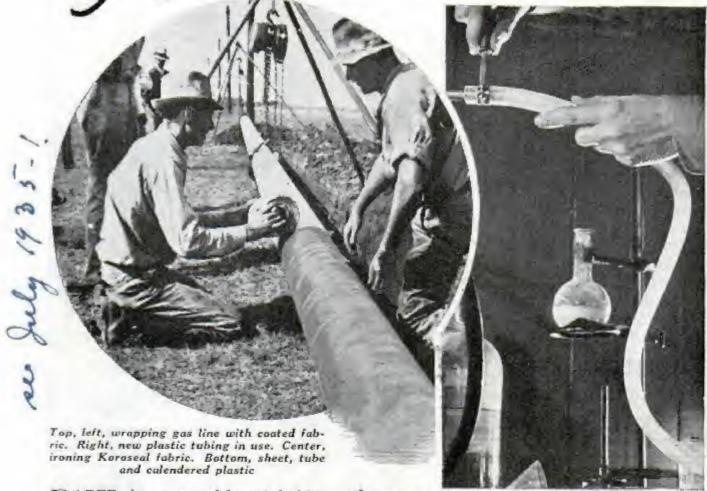
Signs spiraling to top of post point to far-off cities in all directions for airmen passing through Amsterdam airport

Directions to nearly half the world are given by a signpost located at the Amsterdam airport of the Royal Dutch K.L.M. air lines. Cities of virtually

every country in Europe, Africa and the Near East are included in the signs which point the way for fliers of the many European air lines that land and take off at the airport. The signs are arranged spirally from top to bottom of a tall pole on the landing field.

(INames and addresses of manufacturers and dealers in articles described in this magazine will be furnished by our Bureau of Information upon request accompanied by stamped envelope.

1832 Flouda ase Chronicho TPLASTIC



DAPER bags capable of holding oil, grease and various other liquids have been produced as one result of a remarkable new plastic developed in the laboratories of the B. F. Goodrich company. This material, called Koroseal, is used to coat the paper and make it resistant to water. oil and many other things. But that is only one of hundreds of uses to which the plastic has been put.

In the synthesis of the new plastic, coke, limestone and salt are converted into poly-vinyl chloride which, with suitable solvents and plasticizers, becomes a rubberlike material. By varying the plasticizers and solvents, chemists can produce a Koroseal that ranges from a soft jelly to a bonelike solid, and having various other properties. The plastic is much like rubber and can be worked with rubber-processing machinery. But it has several properties that make it superior to rubber for many uses. These include resistance to sunlight, prolonged flexing, strong corrosives such as acids and alkalis, and to water; absence





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RIVALS RUBBER



of swelling or breakdown when in contact with certain oils and solvents; ability to withstand oxygen and ozone for long periods without damage; resistance to fire; insulating properties against electricity.

Gaskets made of Koroseal have been used in high-pressure oil piping where other materials failed. Similar gaskets have been used on reciprocating pistons and found to be leakproof after 17,000,000 strokes. Tubing made of Koroseal, some of it transparent enough to make visible the liquid passing through it, has been used for con-

veying beverages, ozone, sulphur chloride and other substances. In one

case, Koroseal parts were exposed to boiling, concentrated nitric acid for twentyfour hours and still remained serviceable, whereas other materials had been destroyed in twenty to thirty minutes.

Koroseal is being coated on fabrics to produce a material resistant to water, sunlight and other things that damage ordinary cloth. Pure silk thus treated is

(Continued to page 130A)

POPULAR MECHANICS Only

890

and Caterbullar

Pland Pahaseover

Five-Tractor Plow Digs a Six-Foot Furrow

It takes three tractors that muster 300 horsepower to drag a monster plow that digs a furrow six feet deep. It takes two more tractors to keep those three from slipping sidewise into the cavernous fur-

rows. Designed to turn up fertile soil buried deep by floodwaters and sand, this huge plow is one of the farm machines invented and rented by two brothers who supply service to underpowered small

farms around Santa Ana, Calif. With the five-tractor plow they lift and turn five yards of soil at a time, covering one-half acre per hour. Another of their tools is a big rotary scraper hauled by nearly 100 tractor-horsepower. It picks up and carries eight cubic yards of dirt at a time, leveling off land for irrigation. Filling itself with dirt, it is tripped automatically when full and flops over backward, emptying itself.



Trees Use Internal Heat to Control Their Own Heat

Trees have thermostatic methods for resisting both freezing and overheating, Prof. E. S. Reynolds at Washington University has determined by inserting recording thermometers in the heart of a tree trunk and in the layer just under the

bark. In winter the greatest resistance to

change was found at the freezing point in both rising and falling temperatures. Once this point was passed in either direction, however, the temperature of the trunk followed that of the air rather closely. This reluctance to change was explained as dependent upon the release of heat

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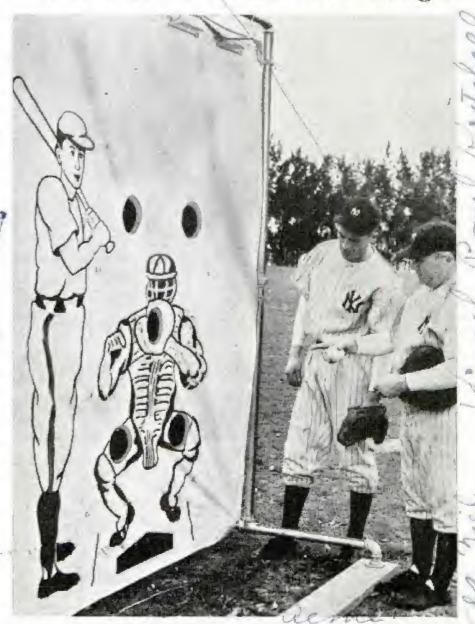
during the freezing of the water in the tree and the equivalent absorption of heat later to melt the ice. In summer the center of the tree dropped as low as sixty degrees and the layer below the bark was less than ninety when the air temperature was above 105. The tree keeps itself cool while in good foliage by transpiration of the leaves and evaporation of water from interior wet tissues.

Six-Range Ammeter Shaped Like Clamp Opens by Trigger

Current flow through conductors up to two and one-quarter inches in diameter is indicated, without interrupting the circuit, by an a.c. clampammeter that measures high or low values. Jaws of the instrument are opened fully by moving the trigger only an inch and one-quarter. Its actual full-scale ranges are ten, twenty-five, fifty, 100, 250 and 500 amperes, and any one of the six ranges may be selected by a thumb-operated changer. It can be used at all commercial frequencies.



Pitchers Fire at 'Home Plate' Painted on a Canvas Target



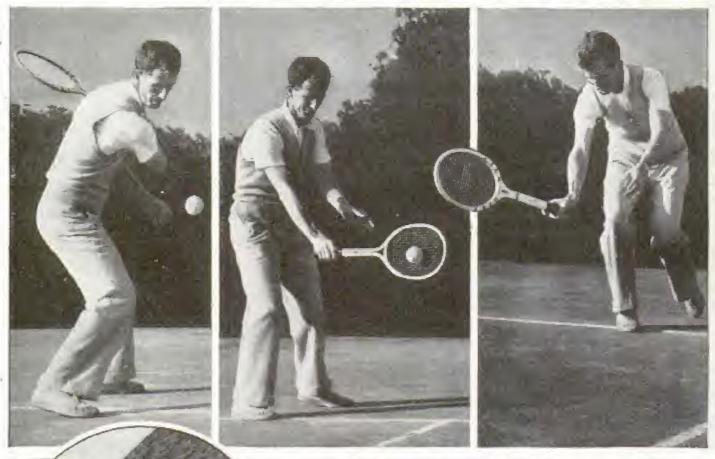
Five holes in the Yankee pitchers' target show the range for a "strike" between the batsman's shoulder and knee, and over the plate

Yankee pitchers put in some early season target practice firing balls at a canvas on which life-size images of the batsman and catcher were painted. Steady bombardment of this imitation home plate helped the hurlers get the ball "in the groove." Five holes in the "corners" of the target—two level with the batter's shoulders, two level with his knees and one in the middle of the catcher's glove—outlined the firing range for a strike.

Railroads Set Record for Fuel Efficiency in 1938

It took an average of 115 pounds of fuel to haul 1,000 tons of freight and equipment one mile on American railroads in 1938, a new record for fuel efficiency. Hauling one passenger car a mile required 14.9 pounds of fuel.

HOW to PLAY



Across the top of the page you see the start, the stroke and finish of a backhand flat drive as posed by the author. Below, the American twist service

By George J. O'Connell Former Trainer of Davis Cup Players

HERE are probably more than a million tennis players in the United States, yet surprisingly few ever show much improvement in their game.

Most players are out on the courts merely to hit the ball back over the net and to win. Of course the object of the game, aside from exercise and a lot of fun, is to win-but how about studying your game to see if it can be improved in any way? Analyze your shots, find out whether you are playing hit or miss tennis with no regard to the rules. Such rules as "keep your eye on the ball," "follow through," and "face sidewards to the net," are known to almost every racket wielder in the country, but not enough tennis enthusiasts take them seriously.

There are three recognized grips—the eastern, western and continental. The lead-

WINNING TENNIS



Above, a doubles match between professional tennis stars in the Chicago stadium. Right, the cannonball service

ing professionals advocate use of the eastern grip because it equips the player for all types of courts, while the other two styles are best suited to special types of bounces.

Don't get the idea that your game is hopeless just because you use a western or continental or even an unorthodox grip. Your game can be improved greatly if you sincerely try. Age makes no difference. "I am too old to play tennis" is a remark frequently heard, but ridiculous. William T. Tilden, Jr., at forty had improved his game over his Davis Cup days to an extent that amazed tennis experts all over the world.

In the eastern grip the racket is held in the left hand with the butt of the handle nearest the body and the cross strings perpendicular to the ground. Then grip the racket with the right hand as if you were shaking hands with it and you have





the correct eastern forehand. For the backhand, turn the racket one-quarter turn to the right. Tilden is the greatest exponent of this grip.

The continental grip is the same as the eastern backhand for both forehand and backhand. The continental stylist uses the same grip for all strokes. Fred Perry, present national professional champion, uses a continental grip but he is the exception to the rule, for this grip is more suited to a grass or en-tout-cas court where the bounces are low than to a high-bouncing clay court.

For the western grip, hold the racket out in front with the handle pointing toward your feet and cross strings pointing to right and left. Now place the thumb on the flat part of the handle directly in front of you, closing your fingers around the racket. Put your thumb around the racket and you have the western grip. This grip is the same for both forehand and backhand and the same side of the racket is used for both shots. Little Bill Johnston of California made this grip famous twenty years





Left, top, start of forehand chop; below, starting a backhand slice. Correct and incorrect footwork in reaching for a forehand volley are shown at left and right, above

ago when he ruled tennis in the United States with one of the hardest forehand drives in the game.

My advice to the beginner is to start with the eastern grips. If the advanced player can shift to the eastern style without too great readjustment he should do so.

The most important shot in tennis is the service. A powerful service well controlled and well placed is the most valuable asset a player can have. The two most popular services of champions today are the slice and the cannonball. The American twist is still used by a few but the fact that it spends so much energy is one reason why top ranking players seldom use it. The slice is the easiest. The slice or

the American twist should always be used for the second service as the cut on the ball gives definite control and breaks it downward with a greater margin of safety than the cannonball or flat service. Hold the racket in front of the body with the cross strings pointing down, grasp the racket right on top and you have the correct grip for the slice. Now turn sidewards to the net, both feet back of the base line, point the racket out toward the net and you are ready to serve. Holding two or three balls in the left hand and racket in position let the racket head drop, swinging freely; at the same time shift the weight to the right foot (weight should be on the ball of the foot, never the heel) and toss the ball up in front, slightly to the right and just high enough to reach comfortably with the racket. Now swing the racket straight forward striking the ball with a slice motion, the racket going across the right side of



Above, eastern forehand drive and closeup of the grip; at left, the western forehand drive and grip

the ball. Let the racket finish to the left and you have delivered a slice service.

The cannonball is served in the same manner, but strikes the ball squarely and the racket finishes in the direction of the service. Strike the ball as high as you can stretch. The American twist takes the same grip as the eastern backhand and the racket goes over the top of the ball and finishes to the right of the body.

When serving, stay on the ground; drive forward with the right foot—in other words, pivot. Don't tighten your grip until the moment the racket strikes the ball. Never hurry. Look at the ball. Practice the toss until it becomes consistent. Don't twirl the ball as you toss it.

Next to the service, the forehand drive is the most important shot. Ninety-nine out of every hundred players use their forehand for a put-away or "kill" shot,

(Continued to page 122A)

Pearl Model of Liberty Bell Cost One Million Dollars



Million dollar pearl, diamond and silver model o Liberty Bell exhibited at New York World's Fair

Made of pearls, and reported to have cost \$1,000,000, a likeness of the historically famous Liberty Bell is exhibited at New York World's Fair by a Japanese company. One foot two inches high and one foot three inches in diameter, the model contains 11,600 pearls, 366 diamonds and more than twenty-six pounds of silver.

Spotlight at Right Side of Auto Keeps Glare from Driver

Giving all the extra illumination needed for night driving, a spotlight mounted on the right side of the automobile does not



Driver controls spotlight on right-hand side by cable shown in diagram. Circle, lamp mounted on car

cast its beam across the driver's line of vision. The lamp rotates to give light in any direction and is controlled from the dash through a flexible shaft. Then, too, the cruising beam does not shine in the eyes of oncoming motorists.

"Magni-Candid" Action Camera Is Flexible as a Miniature

To get the flexibility of the miniature camera and keep the advantages of an eight-by-ten view camera, a Hollywood still photographer has built what he calls a "magni-candid" camera. It is especially adapted to catching action on movie sets. Larger, yet lighter than the conventional eight-by-ten camera, it has a reflex focusing device that permits the photographer to see the picture up to the moment the shutter snaps. Focusing can be done with the aperture wide open, with a subsequent snap back to the predetermined aperture when the shutter is released. The back of the camera revolves in a full circle for easy adjustment to horizontal or vertical position. Two plugs permit flash-bulb syn-



Swinging the big "candid" camera to follow action from low angle. Despite its size it is very flexible

chronization at near or remote points. Built of aluminum and duralumin, the camera is mounted on a pan-tilt top and tripod for ease in following action at any angle; a tension arrangement holds it at any chosen position. The focal-plane shutter with opening range of three-thirty-seconds to twelve inches allows shutter speeds from four seconds to 1/2000 second.





incl'IMM

Neon-sign transformer supplies high voltage to 'hot' grid in steel box

WHERE flies are bothersome and where it is difficult or impossible to screen against them, the use of an electric fly trap is a handy way of controlling this nuisance. Such traps, connected to a 110-volt a.c. lighting circuit, are especially useful at roadside stands and in places where frequent opening of screens admits flies.

The complete trap is detailed in Fig. 2 and consists of a galvanized-iron box, open at the bottom and with a ½-in. flange at the top. A sheet-metal tray just large enough to fit closely over the bottom of the

SOLDERED

TO BOX

INSIDE

PORCE

LAIN BUSHING

GROUNDED SIDE ...

GROUNDED

TO WATER

PIPE OR

RADIATOR

TO NO-V.

1000 Z500 K

NEON-SIGN TYPE

TRANSFORMER

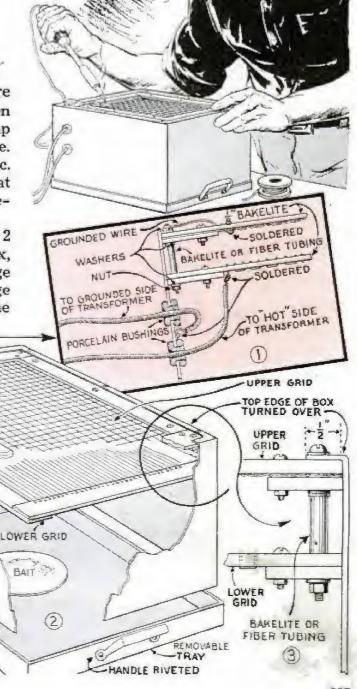
GROUNDING WIRE

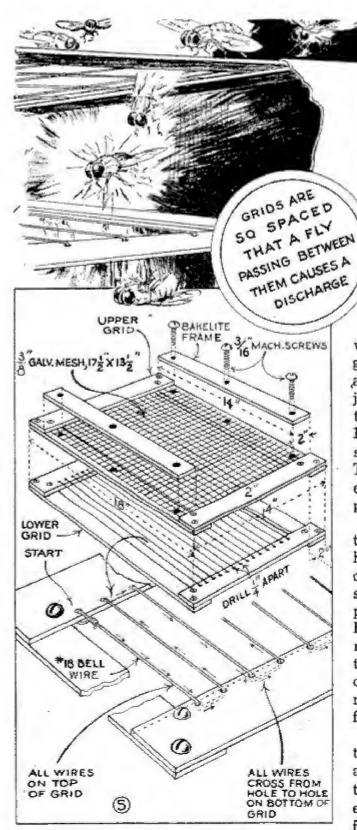
HOT SIDE CONNECTED TO LOWER GRID

BX 14-X 18 POX

HIGH.

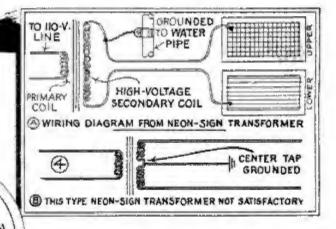
AUTO SNITION CABLES





box is fitted with two handles as indicated. The tray offers a means of cleaning the trap and also of baiting it if desired. Corners of both box and tray are either riveted or soldered.

The lower grid, Figs. 1, 2 and 5, is simply a frame of 1/8-in. Bakelite, as shown. Holes are drilled 1/4 in. apart along opposite inside edges of this frame, and wires are stretched tightly to form the grid. All of



the wires of the grid are on the top of the grid frame, so that they are all spaced the same distance from the upper grid. The lower detail of Fig. 5 shows the method of weaving the

wire. The upper grid makes use of ¼-in. galvanized wire mesh, commonly known as hardware cloth. This is to prevent objects larger than flies from getting between the grids. The screen is cut 17½ in. by 13½ in., and assembled with four Bakelite strips, as shown in the upper detail, Fig. 5. Two more Bakelite strips are then included, as indicated, to present a finished appearance.

The flanges at the top of the box and the two grids are drilled with three matching holes on each side. Through these, machine screws are slipped, and the grids are spaced the proper distance apart as explained later, with the use of washers and Bakelite or fiber tubing. The trap is connected as shown in Figs. 1, 2 and Fig. 4, A, to a neon-sign type transformer, with an output of 1,000-2,500 volts, and not over 15 milliamperes for safety. The type of transformer shown in Fig. 4, B, is not suitable.

Note in Figs. 1 and 2 that one side of the transformer secondary must be grounded, and that this side is connected directly to the metal box. This safety precaution is essential. A grounding wire is extended from the box to a point on the upper grid, and soldered securely to the box and grid. The lead from the hot side of the transformer passes through a porcelain bushing in the metal box and is soldered to the lower grid. High-voltage auto-ignition cable is used for all connections from the transformer to the trap. The distance between the grids is adjusted for satisfactory operation; about 1/4 to 1/2 in., so that a fly passing between them causes a discharge.

CHFUL SENTINELS juard these BROWN SOUARES WHITE SLOTTED INNER-ARM SERVES AS CLEAT MITERED CLEAT FOOT SLAT RAIL 3 XI 48 BOARD NECK . 15 X 5 ESIDE FRAME, \$ X 6 X 50 COUNTER BUILT-UP INNER ARM CASEIN 36 TOP VIEW Colorful sentinels, always standing at attention, form the corner posts of these beds. The posts are built up from stock as shown in the right cen-SLAT RAIL T ter detail. No intricate joining is necessary as the side rails and the head 54" and foot boards are screwed to cleats 60 on the posts. For the end panels, you can use %-in. plywood, but hardwood is advised for the side frames or rails. In finishing, apply undercoater to the 30bare wood, then follow with three coats of enamel in colors as given, although you can vary this to suit your taste

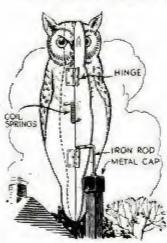
36"---

Suitcase Used as Picnic Table Has Mailing-Tube Legs



For the family who occasionally goes on a picnic, an old suitcase in which bathing suits and other articles are carried will serve as a table. Mailing tubes or similar cardboard tubes will provide temporary legs if they are slit at one end to slip over the edges of the suitcase.

Sheet-Metal Owl Saves Fruit



So realistic that it scares birds out of fruit trees, this owl is assembled from light sheet metal. It consists of three pieces, one cut to full-body contour and two pieces cut to half-body shape without the ears. These are hinged on opposite sides

of the main piece and are held at right angles to it by coil springs which should have just enough tension to allow the hinged pieces to move slightly in the wind. The bird is 2 ft. long and is riveted to a length of iron rod for mounting on a standard. Eyes, face and feathers are brought out by painting.

—Dale R. Van Horn, Lincoln, Nebr.

Roller Hand Stamp from Caster Prints on Uneven Surfaces

A hand stamp that "rolls" the lettering on irregular surfaces can be made from a wooden caster. Select one having a cir-

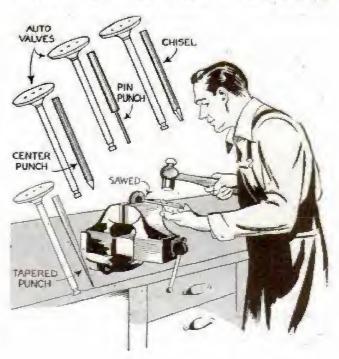
cumference about equal to the length of the rubber strip containing the desired lettering. This can be stripped from a regular hand stamp and glued or cemented to the surface of the caster wheel if de-



sired. A wooden file handle slipped over the shank of the caster provides a good hand grip.—Opie Read, Jr., Chicago.

Set of Small Punches and Chisels Made from Old Car Valves

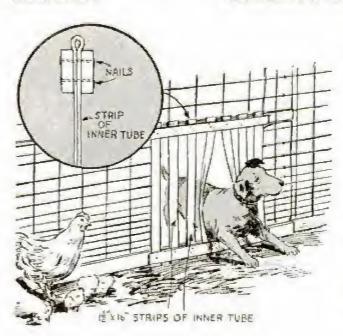
You can have a set of chisels and punches for small work by simply cutting off the heads of old car valves and grinding the tappet ends of the stems to the desired



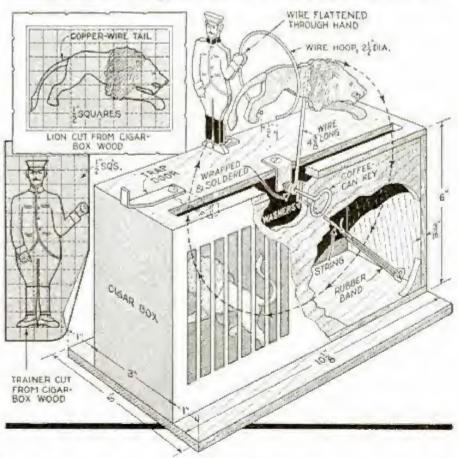
shape. If the stems are difficult to cut with a hack saw, clamp them in a vise as indicated. Then nick them deeply with a file or saw and break them off. Care must be taken in grinding not to heat the metal enough to remove the temper. If you can find some old valves from a large tractor engine, they can be used to make a set of larger tools in the same manner.- Harris Peterson, Blooming Prairie, Minn.

Inner-Tube "Gate" Admits Dog to Hen Yard

If rodents are bothering your poultry, make a gate from strips of inner tube and teach your rat dog to use it. He can nudge his way through easily but the rubber is too stiff to let the hens get out. By making the gate man-size, a person can enter with both hands full. Also, this idea can be used to allow a dog to enter the yard around a farm home.



Jumping-Lion Toy Motivated by String and Rubber Bands



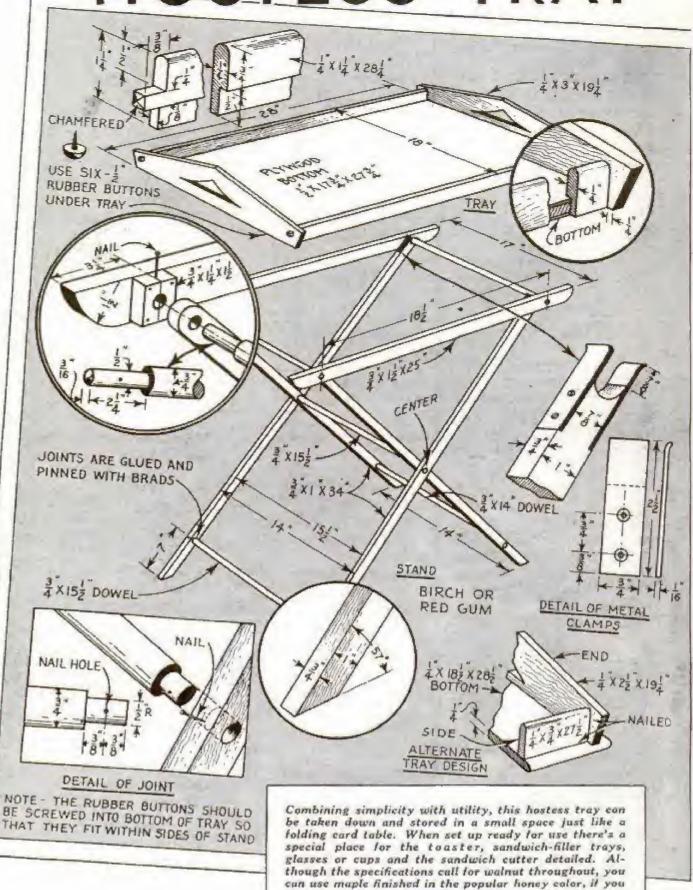
Giving the illusion of several lions jumping from cage to cage through a hoop held by a trainer, this toy is sure to provide plenty of fun for any small child. The main part of the toy is a cigar box having two sets of cage bars painted on the front with a partition between to simulate two cages. The trainer and lion are jigsaw cutouts and the latter is fastened to a coffee-can key by means of a short wire. This is assembled in the center of a slot as indicated so that it can

be rotated by a string, which is wound on the key and tied to a rubber band. The band stretches as the key is turned and when the latter is released, the pull of the band causes the key to rotate. A strip of metal pivoted to swing over the slot near one end provides a "trap door" or stop which prevents the lion from moving until it is swung to one side. The complete assembly is mounted on a wood base.

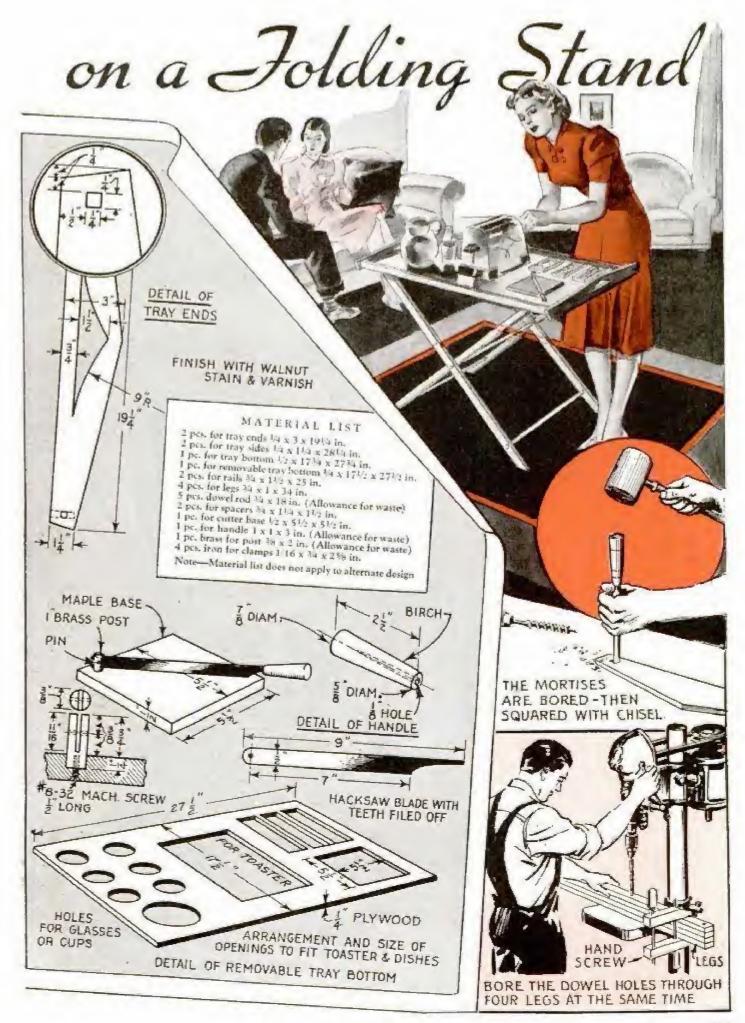
-L. B. Johnson, Spokane, Wash.

¶Indelible-pencil stains can be removed from a garment with a sponge dampened in denatured alcohol; after sponging the stains for about 5 min., rinse the garment in cold soapsuds and then in several changes of clear water.

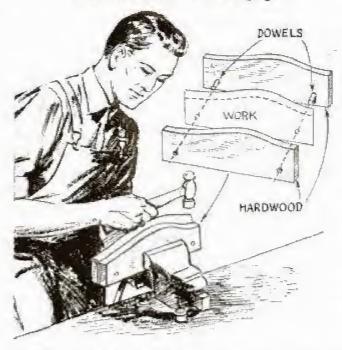
HOSTESS TRAY



have colonial furniture. Otherwise use selected walnut and finish in the natural color



Irregular Sheet-Metal Work Formed in Wood Jig

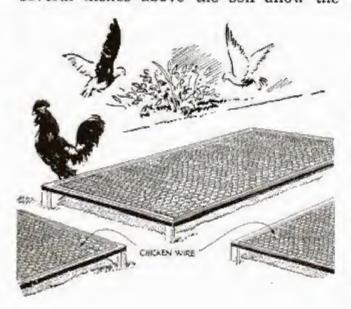


The problem of forming an irregularshaped job on sheet metal was solved quickly by one handy man with a pair of properly shaped blocks and a sturdy vise. The metal should be worked gently over the former, and striking of any direct blows should be avoided until the final angle is to be made.

-P. F. Rossman, Kenmore, N. Y.

Wire Frames Protect Your Seeds from Birds and Chickens

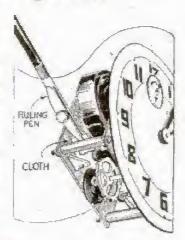
Newly seeded beds are open to every bird in the neighborhood unless protected. Simple screens made of chicken wire raised several inches above the soil allow the



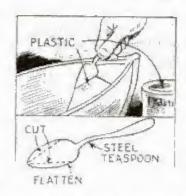
entrance of light and rain but keep out the birds. The screens can be removed as soon as the plants are large enough to take care of themselves.

Ruling Pen Used as Pad Holder for Cleaning Clocks

Getting at the inner movements of clocks and small machines for dust removal, cleaning or oiling is greatly simplified by a long-handled ruling pen. Grip a cloth pad, piece of sandpaper or oiled felt between the jaws of the pen.



Teaspoons Converted to Trowels for Small Work

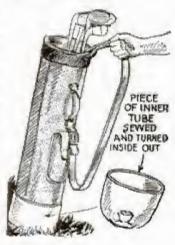


For applying plastic materials and similar compounds in corners and other hard-to-reach places, a handy trowel can be made easily from an ordinary teaspoon. The bowl of the spoon

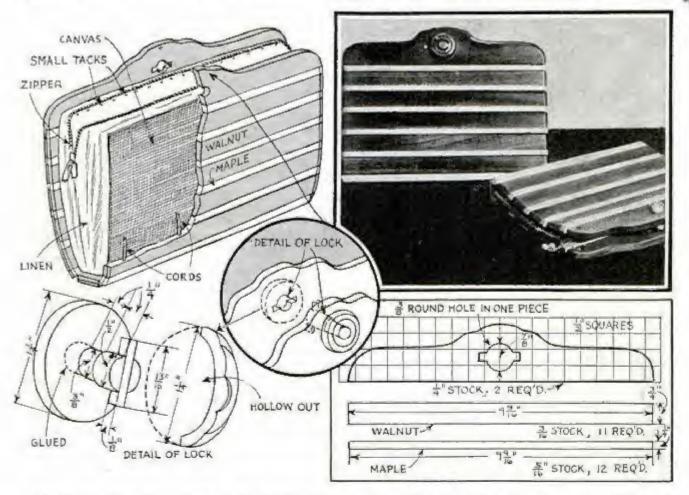
must first be flattened, after which it can be cut to any shape desired.

Golf Bag Wears an "Overshoe" to Keep Bottom Dry

To protect the bottom of your golf bag against damp or muddy ground when you set it down, sew together one end of a short section of an old inner tube, turn it wrong side out and slip it over the bottom end of the bag.



Ladies' Smart Handbag of Contrasting Wood



Walnut and maple strips give pleasing contrast in this handbag. After sawing out the strips, drill a hole in each top piece for the lock, which is a short dowel with a pin glued in a slot at one end and a knob on the other. A false hollow knob of the same kind is glued over the slotted hole in the

top piece to hide it from the outside. All the strips are strung on four equi-distant cords, which are knotted after passing through the end pieces. Canvas is glued to the inside of the strips, and a fabric bag is tacked in place.

-Chas. H. Deerwester, Middletown, Pa.

Emergency Jewelry Cache in Top of Door Is Doubly Safe

There are times when one cannot get to the bank, and leaving valuables in the house is always risky. The least likely place for a burglar to look is a hole bored down through the top of the front door. In the first place the cache cannot be reached without unlocking the door and standing on a chair, and secondly, by inserting a cork the hiding place is not readily detected even when the fingers are run over it.

Many jobs of surfacing, rust removing and grinding can best be done with dust collecting under a grinding wheel. Mix with cup grease to form a paste and apply with flannel cloth or polishing wheel.





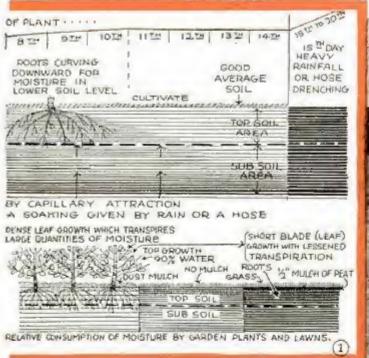
By ROBERT STAHLER

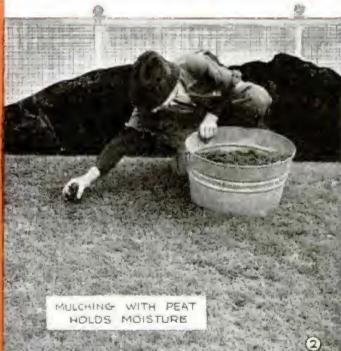
HERE'S something to think about before you unlimber your garden hose next time: To start off with, proper watering is largely a matter of knowing your garden soil, the habits of the plants growing in it and how to time the watering to actual needs. Too frequent watering will convert the best soil into a sour, waterlogged mass in which bacteria beneficial to plant life cannot possibly thrive. Most experienced gardeners agree that generous flooding several times a week or a light sprinkling almost every evening is very harmful to sturdy growth of many common plants and grasses.

Now for some of the reasons why: First

fine root hairs, Fig. 3. These root hairs take up moisture by a process which agronomists call osmosis. Applied to plant growth, this is the absorption through a thin membrane of a lighter liquid into a heavier one. Thus is moisture, the lighter liquid, drawn through the thin walls of the root hairs by the sugary sap (the heavier liquid) which they contain. A few hours after a drenching rain, try squeezing a handful of wet soil. Not a drop of water will come forth, because the water now surrounds the soil particles in microscopically thin films, and the humus (decayed vegetable and animal matter) is now minute reservoirs which will release their stored moisture to the plants as needed. Feeding roots receive moisture from distances several feet away from the tip ends. This is due to capillary movement of water and to osmosis. Capillary movement is the movement of water

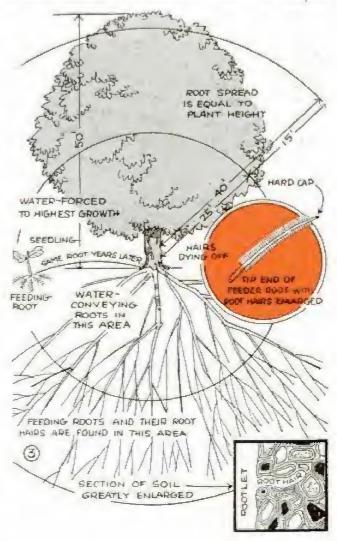
with Better WATERING





from soil particles to other particles and on to others which have lost part of their moisture. This is the reason plants thrive in a comparatively dry soil.

In the section B, Fig. 1, the soil air, vitally necessary to the roots and as a means of escape for the foul gases formed by decaying vegetation, is forced out of the soil by rainfall or hosing, but is soon entering again and bacteria resume activity. As the top soil gradually loses moisture, the roots grow longer and curve downward for moisture now coming up to them by capillary movement, which brings with it plant food washed into low levels by winter and spring rains. In the last section, Fig. 1, notice the abrupt upsweep of theoretical growth. This is due not wholly to the refreshing benefits of the applied moisture, but is the result of bacteria-those working in the dryer soil levels above the roots where they have been making available plant food, which was washed into the immediate vicinity of the roots and rapidly taken up by them. Occurring in uncounted numbers in each tablespoonful of rich garden soil, these bacteria, which are single-cell micro-organisms, break down complex compounds into simple elements





Now suppose you were to keep your garden and lawn top soil soaked during this theoretical 14-day cycle. As a result the soil would be without air, to the detriment of aerobic (air-loving) bacteria and much of the root system of the plants would perish, while the sparse remainder would function too close to the soil surface. The soil would become sour, full of poisonous gases, and the plant foliage would take on a sickly, yellowish-green color.

So, contrasting the two cycles, the following method of watering appears to be best: A heavy soaking (2 to 3 in. of water applied to the garden or lawn) at 10-day to 3-week intervals governed by temperature, texture of soil, and water-holding Two sections of the lower right detail in Fig. 1 show the relative development of a sod. In hot, dry weather, however, your lawn may show frequent signs of flagging, or the grass may turn slightly brown, indicating need of moisture in too short an interval. This shows, either singly or in combination, a sandy soil, or a soil whose humus content is exhausted. One remedy for this condition is mulching. To apply it

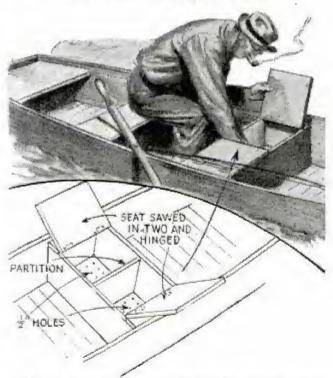
effectively, first mow the grass with the mower set to cut not lower than 11/2 in. and then wait a day or two for the tips to heal. Moisten the peat and break it up into fine particles. Apply as in Fig. 2 to 1 in. depth. When matted down, the mulch should be a good ½ in. thick. If, after matting down, it appears too thin, apply more peat as directed above. Let the grass continue to grow up through the mulch. If no rain falls before the grass needs mowing, soak the peat down and mow when the grass has dried. Never apply a mulch when the grass is short, or when its length is such that it bends over under the slight weight of the peat. Smothering is likely to result. Grass growing on banks or terraces should always be mulched.

General gardening soils should not have a clay content exceeding 30 per cent, Fig. 5. If the "physical" condition of any soil is improved by adding sand and peat, you should keep it up to par by yearly applications of peat or other humus, though in smaller quantities than those shown. Maintain fertility by adding commercial fertilizer, bone meal and, rotted manure. Although hydrated lime is not a fertilizer, it sweetens sour or acid soils, particularly of the E and F type, and should therefore be added to such soils yearly, though in smaller amounts than shown. All liming should be done in late fall or early winter and thoroughly mixed with the soil.

There are also certain plants which have special, seasonal water requirements. For example, you should keep peonies well watered throughout August for this is the season that new eyes are formed. Immediately after flowering, the foliage of early spring bulbs such as tulips, hyacinths, etc., continue to grow, and store within the bulb next season's foliage and bloom.

Many evergreens have no true dormant season, and are likely to be in active growth in fall and early winter. Thus they may winter-kill if these seasons are dry. Fig. 4 shows how to water tall-growing ornamentals such as shrubs and evergreens. As there are few feeding roots inside the spread of the foliage, Fig. 3, the area outside should be watered as shown in Fig. 4. In all cases, ground soaking is the best method, for it directs the water where needed without waste and reduces chances of foliage diseases.

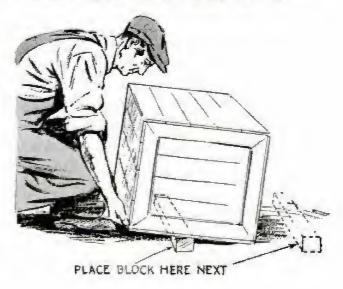
Box for Live Bait in Rowboat Is under Hinged Seat



Two watertight bulkheads under the middle seat, and holes bored in the bottom provide a bait well where the water is always cool and fresh. Paint with white lead and linseed oil and calk the joints with marine glue.

Balancing Blocks Save Fingers When "Rolling" Heavy Cases

A couple lengths of 2 by 4-in. wood are very useful to have at hand when "rolling" heavy boxes or other weights. Lay one so the box will be tipped on it for the next move. Repeat until the box reaches the desired location. For extra heavy weights a lever may be used to start the lift.



Silk Anklets Reduce Friction When Pulling on Boots



Slipped over your regular socks as shown, these silk anklets make it easy for your feet to slide into tight-fitting boots. More than a dozen anklets can be cut from a single pair of discarded stockings.

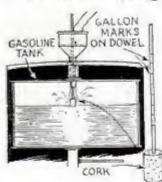
Plumbers' Force Cup Holds Acid

If there is no container at hand for acid, you can improvise one from a plumbers' force cup. Remove the handle and



turn the rubber cup wrong side out as shown. When finished, turn the cup back and wash it thoroughly in running water.

Overflow Gauge for Boat Tanks



The fire hazard of slopping gasoline over into the cockpit of a motorboat when filling the tank, can be avoided with this simple gauge. First insert the gauge into the tank and then lower the funnel over it. Stop the flow from the dock pump at intervals while the float seeks its level. A similar gauge for the water tank also will be useful.

-J. A. Emmett, Annapolis, Md.

Lead Casting Removed Easily When Mold Is Smoked

Needing several lead disks for weights I molded them in tin-can covers, first smoking the inner surfaces so the castings would part from them easily. The smoking was done by holding the covers over a candle.

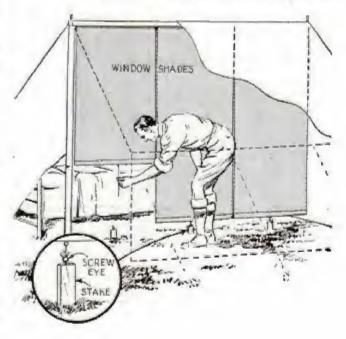


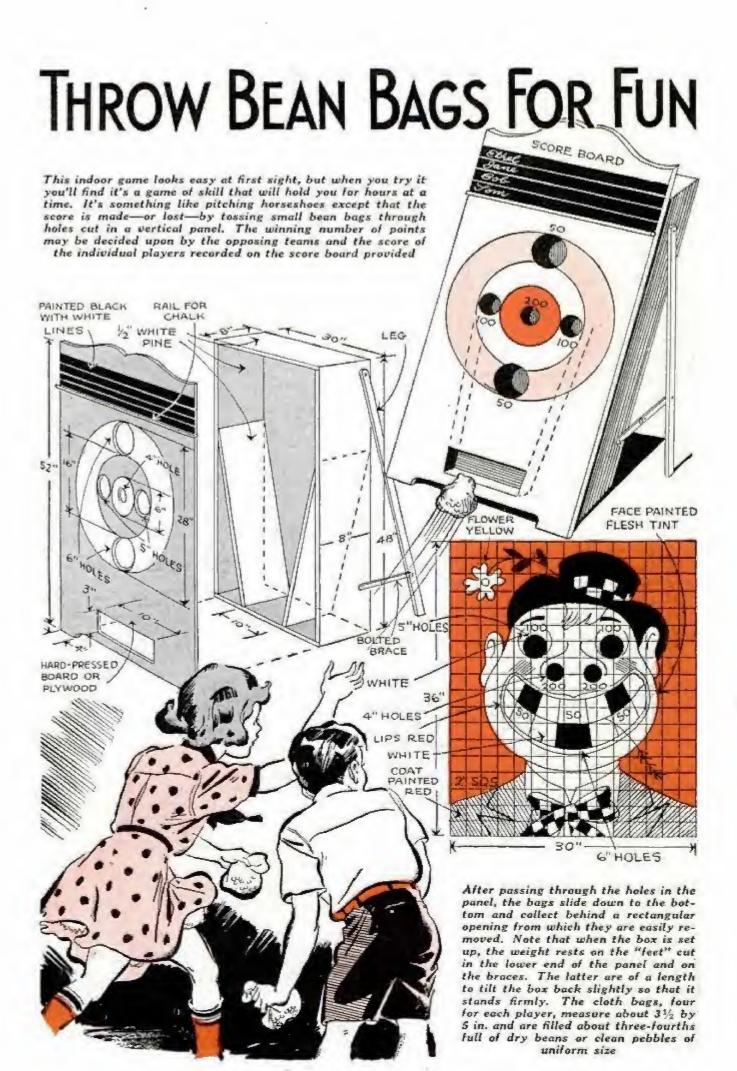
—G. E. Hendrickson, Argyle, Wis.

Tent Divided by Window Shades Gives Privacy to Campers

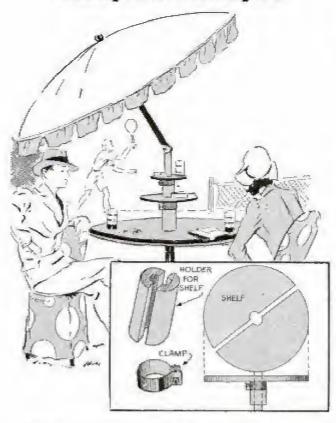
Tent occupants can have individual sleeping quarters by using window-shade partitions. The brackets are attached to the ridge pole so that the shades will overlap a few inches when they are pulled down. If desired, stakes may be driven into the ground so that the pull cords of the shades can be tied to prevent the shades from blowing in a breeze.

—E. P. Barnhart, Whittier, Calif.





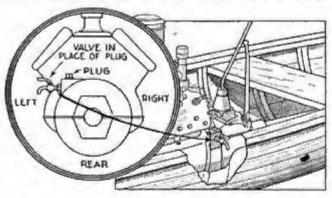
Removable Shelves on Lawn Table Clamped to Centerpost



When outdoor meals are inconvenienced because the table under a lawn umbrella is too small, shelves clamped to the stem of the umbrella provide space for foods and beverages. This leaves the main table free for plates of the diners. The shelves can be removed quickly when the meal is over.

Valve in Oil Line of Motorboat Simplifies Draining Crankcase

Owners of power boats using automobile engines are often inconvenienced by having to drain oil in the usual manner, but not when a plug in the oil-pump system is removed and a valve installed. With the engine running and the valve open, the old oil will squirt out. As long as it flows the engine is lubricated, but cut the switch

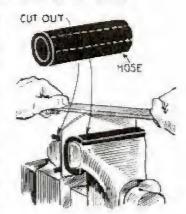


the moment the oil stream sputters. Refill with fresh oil in the usual manner. By not having to reach underneath, the engine may be lowered several inches, with a consequent increase in stability.

—C. E. Packer, Chicago.

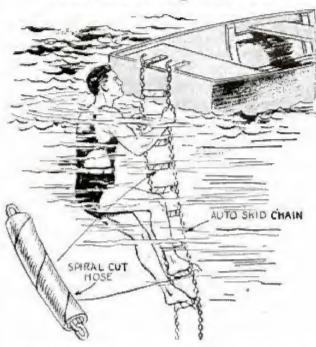
Rubber Auxiliary Vise Jaws Protect Finished Work

Make up this pair of rubber jaws for your bench vise and you can clamp finished wood or metal work in it without marring the surface. The jaws are merely short lengths of rubber hose having strips



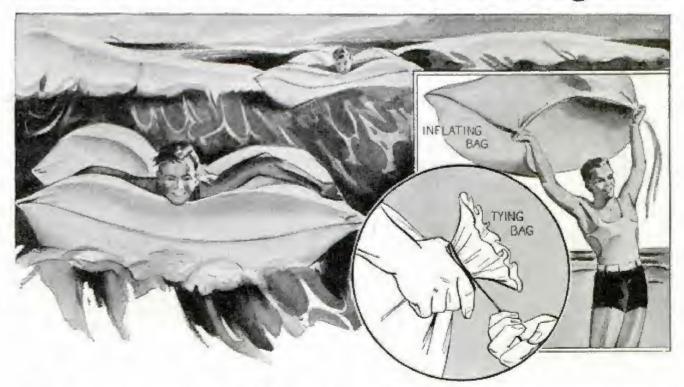
cut out of the sides so that they can be slipped over the jaws as shown.

Chain Ladder Aids Swimmers When Climbing into Boat



You will find that an old auto skid chain provides a handy ladder to get into a boat or onto a raft. Pieces of garden hose slit spirally to slip over the cross chains cushion them for bare feet. The chain can be suspended from a pair of stout hooks fastened securely to the stern of the boat or to the edge of the raft.

Surf "Balloons" Give You a Thrilling Ride

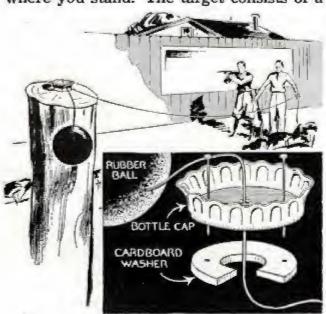


Popular at a number of California beaches, these air-filled cloth bags or "wind bags" as they are commonly called, give bathers new thrills in the surf. They are made of any closely woven material such as ordinary sheeting. Dimensions are generally 3 or 4 ft. wide and 5 or 6 ft. long, a drawstring being provided in a hem at the open end so that the bag can be closed

quickly. To fill with air, first wet the cloth thoroughly. Then, holding the neck of the bag open, run into the wind or whirl the bag around to catch the air. The inflated bag is then closed with the drawstring and the latter is tied around the closed neck. In use, grasp the center of each end, hold the bag across the chest and when a wave breaks, throw yourself forward.

This Air-Rifle Target Is Reset by Pulling a Long String

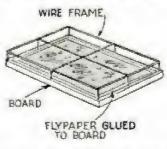
When you score a bull's-eye on this target, it can be reset by pulling a string from where you stand. The target consists of a



rubber ball and a bottle cap. A string is attached to the ball and is run through a hole in the cap, which is nailed to the top of a post or stake. A cardboard washer with one side cut away serves as a spacer to prevent binding the string between the cap and post.

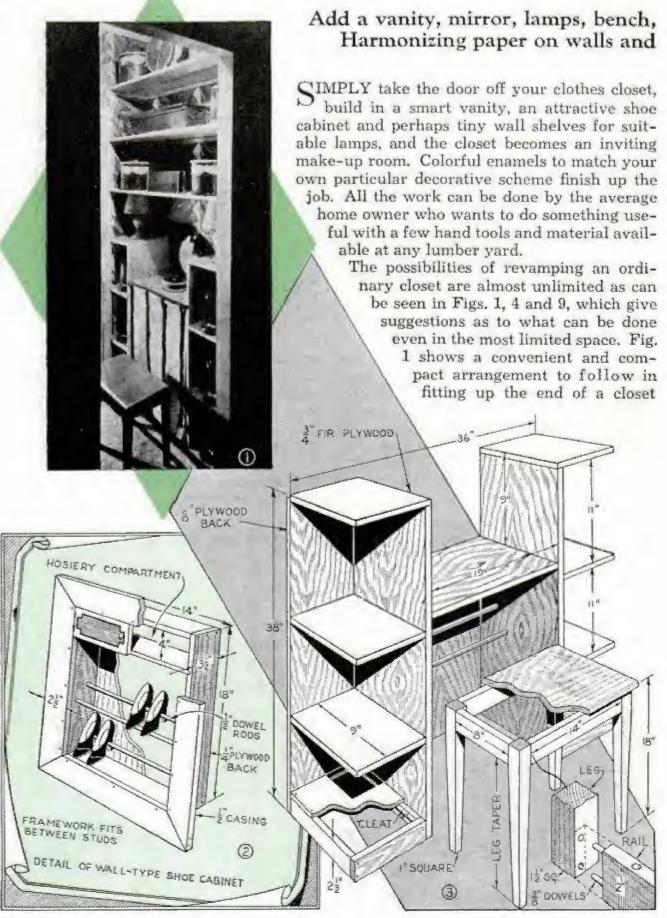
Guard Keeps Sleeve Off Flypaper

By means of a simple wooden base and a bent wire frame, a sheet of flypaper may be used, and still not be subject to personal contact. It is



thus easily carried from place to place and does not blow about in the wind.

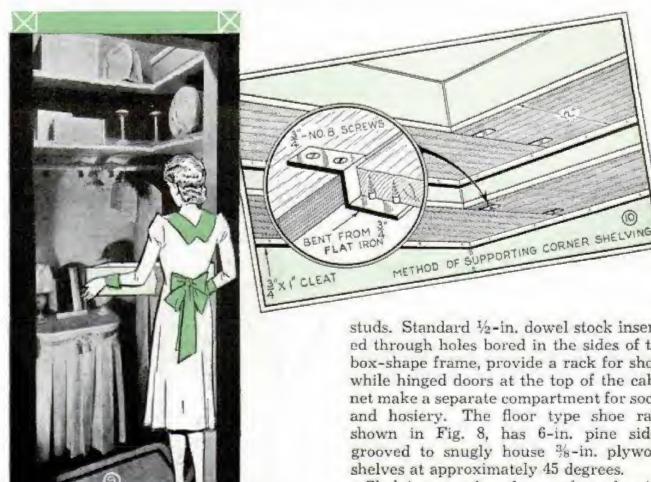
POWDER ROOMS in



old CLOTHES CLOSETS

wall shoe cabinet and shelves. hat boxes gives a luxurious finish





fitted along a back wall with wardrobe space at the side. Small scrolled brackets, Fig. 7, fitted at either side of a circular wall mirror, provide neat little shelves upon which to place small lamps.

The shoe and hosiery cabinet, in Fig. 2, is ideal where space is at a premium as it is made to fit flush in the wall between the

studs. Standard ½-in, dowel stock inserted through holes bored in the sides of the box-shape frame, provide a rack for shoes while hinged doors at the top of the cabinet make a separate compartment for socks and hosiery. The floor type shoe rack shown in Fig. 8, has 6-in, pine sides, grooved to snugly house %-in. plywood shelves at approximately 45 degrees.

Shelving can be of second grade pine stock, painted on both sides to facilitate cleaning. Fig. 10 shows how shelves can be made to meet at a corner. As can be seen in the detail, small support brackets bent from 3/4-in. flat iron, are screwed into one shelf from the top and the other from the bottom. Standard parting-stop material available from your lumber dealer is just the thing for cleats to support the shelves along the wall.

Block Letters in Many Colors Cut from Cardboard Patterns

Signs made of letters mounted on a contrasting background are always popular. With a lettering book for a guide, lay out

TWO-COLOR LETTER ONE COLOR

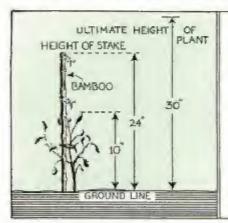
a cardboard pattern for each letter. Trace around these and cut the letters out of lighter stock. The finished letters are

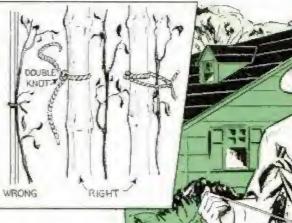
pasted to a background of contrasting shade and complementary color. Two and three-tone letters may be had by making each tracing slightly wider than the last and stacking them together. Tinfoil, colored Christmas wrappings, etc., also may be used for novel effects.

—L. E. Ashley, Gulfport, Miss.

TRinse water from milk bottles is good for your house plants.

Tips on Staking Plants to Avoid Injuring Roots





MAKESHIFT stakes mar the appearance of a flower garden, and if the staking is done improperly, it may damage the root systems and choke the stems. The best time for staking is immediately after the plants are set out or, in the case of broadcast seeding, just after the final thinning and first cultivation. Early staking permits the foliage to grow around the stakes and hide them. Height of the stake should be about 6 in. less than the expected height of the plant. Many flowering plants growing from tubers, corms and bulbs, such as dahlias, lilies and the like should be staked before setting them in the ground, for quite frequently the shoots strike an obstruction, grow out at an angle, and emerge in an untrue position. This may mislead you into driving the stake into the bulb. Square-sawed wood is satisfactory for stakes, but for most flowering plants, finger-size bamboo is neater and stronger. They are sold cheaply by seedsmen, and are either stained or unstained. The latter are preferred, and should be given a coat of spirit stain and two coats of good spar varnish. For tall, heavy plants such as dahlias, wood 1 in. square is preferred. Heavy, medium-height plants such as African marigolds may require two bamboo stakes set close together. As bamboo cannot be driven, you will have to make a hole in the ground by driving an iron rod with a diameter slightly less than that of the stake. The first tying should be done when the plants are quite small. Tie the cord to the stake with a double knot to hold it in place and then tie the plant loosely to allow for growth without pinching. Raffia, soft jute twine of 1/4-in. diameter or larger, and 1/2-in cotton tape are

CORD FIN BOLDERED SHARPENED WITH FILE STAKE BAMBOO GROUND LINE REGAL DAHLIA TUGER BULB SAND ROOT END SPROUT END

the best for tying the plants. You will find that the combined twine holder and cutter shown is very handy. The straps through which the belt is pushed are tin strips soldered to the holder. In the fall when removing the stakes from hardy bulbs and tubers that are to be left in the ground, it is advisable to insert short dowels or iron rods into the holes left by the stakes to keep them from filling up during the winter.

Sliding Bolt on the Inside of Door Locked from Outside



A door can be locked on the way out if you install a sliding bolt as shown. The use of a strip of metal or a hardwood wedge is also necessary. After releasing the bolt, it slides up the tiny "ramp" and drops into a catch which is screwed to the floor.—Mark Bell, Passaic, N. J.

Inducing Strong Root Systems on Seedlings

Instead of transplanting seedlings three or four times to strengthen the root systems, cut the tiny rootlets after the plants have been moved to flats or a permanent place in the ground. About an inch from the plant and on all four sides, slice



through the soil to the bottom of the flat or to a depth of at least 3 in. in the ground. A week later repeat the operation about 1½ in. from the plant, and then the second week make the final cutting about 2 in. from the plant.

Holding a Glass Wood Scraper

You can hold a piece of glass between a pair of rubber heels to scrape wood. They minimize the risk of cutting the fingers on the sharp edges of the glass and provide a large gripping surface.



Putty Carried on Paint Bucket



Bent to the shape shown and suspended over the side of a paint bucket, a piece of tin provides a handy container for carrying putty to fill nail holes when painting.

"Crank" Operates Bench Vise

Clamped to the handle of a bench vise, a steering-wheel "spinner" knob will save considerable time if the vise is in constant use. When a strong pull must be ex-



erted to clamp large work, the vise handle can be gripped in the regular way.

-W. C. Wilhite, Carlinville, Ill.

■Fruit purchased at a market always should be wiped off with a clean, slightly damp cloth before it is put away, this cleans it and tends to check rot that may have gotten on it from other fruits.

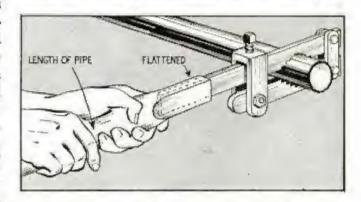
How to Safeguard Your Vacation Snapshots



hair for this purpose. Stroke it over your coat sleeve two or three times to get a good static charge and it will pick up every particle of dust and lint. Clean the lens and inside surface of the bellows carefully, as in Fig. 2, and you will avoid many spots when the prints are developed. Tighten all screws and nuts. A drop of celluloid cement on each one will help prevent them from loosening when riding or hiking with the camera. To protect your exposed film against excessive humidity, use an airtight container like the one shown in Figs. 1 and 3. It is a fruit jar containing six disks of blotting paper that has been impregnated with calcium chloride, which absorbs moisture from the film coating. To impregnate the disks, dissolve all the chemical possible in a teacup of water and place them in the solution, one at a time. When thoroughly soaked, remove the disks and dry them on a piece of waxed paper. Then put them in a warm oven for an hour to remove all traces of moisture, leaving the door open to avoid accidental scorching of the paper. When the disks are removed from the oven, immediately seal them in the jar. A piece of gauze should be placed on top of the disks to keep the film rolls from coming in contact with the paper.

"Bull-Dog" Wrench Really Grips without Relaxing

This high-leverage wrench differs from the usual type in that it will not let go the instant pressure is removed from the handle. Make it of hardened tool steel and you



will have a wrench which can even be used with a chain fall hooked to the handle.

—Chas. H. Willey, Penacook, N. H.

BUILD YOUR

strike the centerline and on this locate the intersections of lines for the various stations, A, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 as shown in Fig. 4 and also on your blueprints. These lines should be exactly at right angles to the centerline. Next, consult the table Fig. 2, "Half-Breadths from centerline," and you will note that the dimension of the sheer and centerline at station A is given as 0-8-7, which means 0 feet, 8 inches and % inch. Mark that point then proceed with station 1, which distance from sheer to

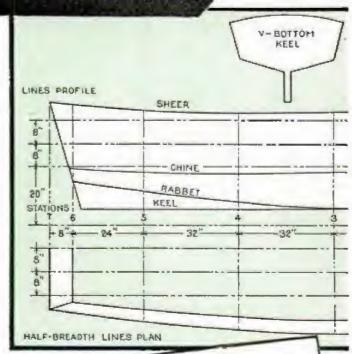
Editor's Note: Information given in this article is intended only as general procedure for the amateur in building small boats of the types mentioned. Dimensions and details are merely to illustrate the proportions, shapes, positions and locations of the parts and are not sufficient to build any one of the boats shown, but are intended only as supplements to plans or designs for the various craft

PART I—Laying down hull lines; building frames, stem, keel and transom

A T THE outset, success in building a boat means just two things: Knowing beforehand exactly what type boat you want to build and then getting started right on the construction. Once you have the job accurately laid out the rest is easy.

Laying out plans: When you get your blueprints you will find on the first sheet a set of drawings and figures similar to those shown in Figs. 2, 4 and 5. This includes the lines profile, half-breadth lines plan and body plan, and table of offsets. From these it is possible to lay out the plans accurately to full size. The first step is to paste together sheets of wrapping paper to make a single sheet large enough to draw the details full size as in Fig. 6.

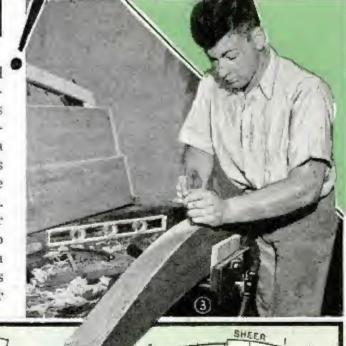
When laying off the hull lines first

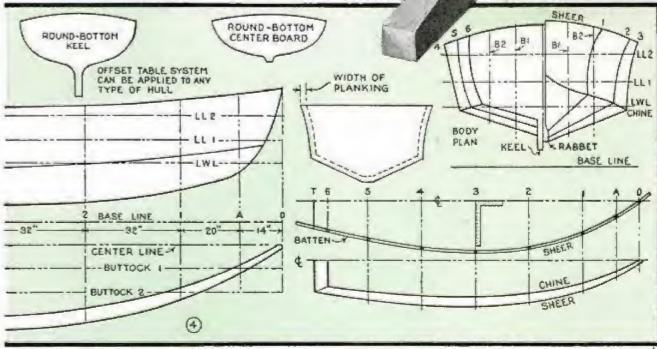


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BOAT RIGHT

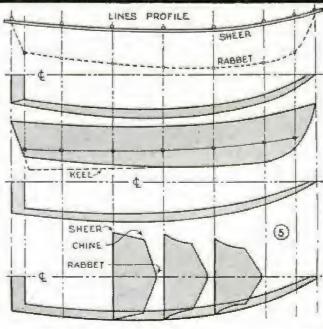
centerline is 1-6-2, or 1 foot, 6 inches and 2% or 1/4 in. Continue with all other stations in like manner. When the points showing where the sheer crosses the transverse or station lines are located, bend a 1 by 1-in. pine batten along these points and strike a line. This will give you the actual sheer line of the completed boat. Use the natural curve of the batten in your work. The chine curve comes next, and, to avoid confusion, it is a good idea to use a red pencil or chalk for this. The chine is laid out in the same manner as the sheer

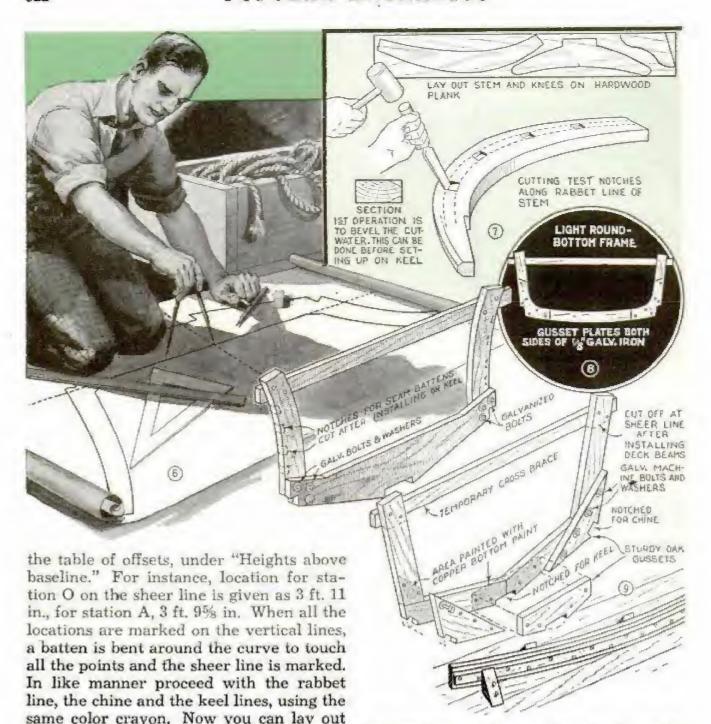




line. See the lower-right details in Fig. 4. You will note that in the half-breadth lines plan in Fig. 4 are shown two horizontal lines designated as Buttock 1 and Buttock 2. These are only necessary in round-bottom boats, that is, where the section between keel and chine is curved. Likewise the horizontal lines marked LWL (load water line), LL1 and LL2 are required only where the sides are curved, or have a bulge between the sheer line and chine.

To lay out the lines profile you must have a baseline, and if your floor space is of limited area, you can use the centerline already drawn as a baseline. Vertical lines are drawn at right angles to the baseline, and the sheer line laid out by consulting





the frames for the stations. You have the

width across the top of the frames, or dis-

tance between sheer lines, which consti-

tutes the width of the boat at that point. You also have the width at the chine, like-

wise height from rabbet to chine and from

chine to sheer, which completes everything necessary for laying out a V-bottom frame

having flat sides. However, if there is a

curve in either of these lines between chine

and rabbet or sheer, you will need the

body plan as in the top-right detail, Fig. 4,

and the lines Buttock 1, Buttock 2 and depending on the boat, LW1, LL1 and LL2.

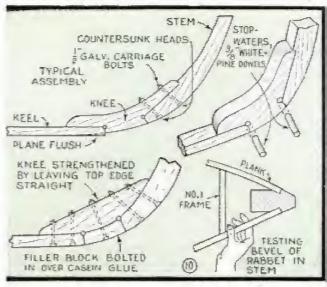
Keep in mind that the dimensions given on

the offset table, Fig. 2, are to the outside of

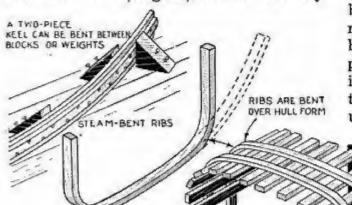
the planking. Therefore, in making the

station frames, always allow for the width of the planking.

Building the frames: If other wood is not specified, make the frames of white oak. Usually they are made with a lap joint at the chine, bolted with galvanized bolts on the larger hulls. Side members are always longer than the completed job, with a temporary cross member to prevent their being forced in when putting on the planking, Figs. 8 and 9. This cross member is later removed. Notches for seam battens are best cut after the frame is installed on the keel, for better alinement. Notches for keel and chine are cut before fastening the frame to the keel. An exceptionally sturdy frame without excessive weight is made by



bolting on oak gussets at the chine and keel. The contacting surface is first painted over with copper bottom paint. Machine, instead of carriage bolts, are used with washers on each side. For a light sailboat or dinghy water-resistant plywood, brass or galvanized gussets can be used. Steam-bent ribs, Fig. 12, are used in many



TWISTED

(12)

WIRE

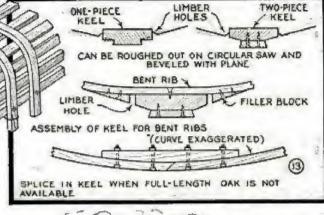
designs, and are prepared for bending by steaming or boiling in a tank or large iron

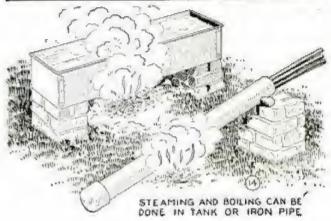
pipe, Fig. 14, for about an hour. They are then bent to shape over an inverted form on which the boat is to be built, the ends clamped or screwed to the form, or drawn down by twisting wire, as shown.

Building the keel: Keels usually are of white oak and can be made in one or two pieces. The one-piece job requires roughing out the rabbet by circular saw and finishing with a plane. If there is a pronounced curve and it is necessary to assemble the two-piece keel before putting on frames, the two members can be bent between blocks nailed to the floor and screwed together in that position, Fig. 12.



Copper bottom paint should be used on the contacting surfaces. If pieces full length of the boat are not available, the keel can be spliced, as indicated in Fig. 13. This makes a very strong joint and if the upper block is beveled, the curve will not be impaired. In built-up frames, the keel is set in a notch, but with the steam-bent frame this is not practical, so filler blocks are used instead, as shown in Fig. 13, the cen-

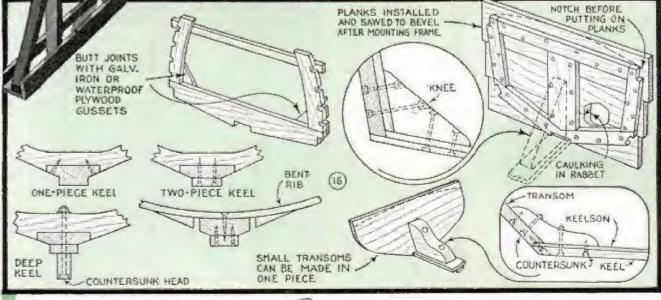


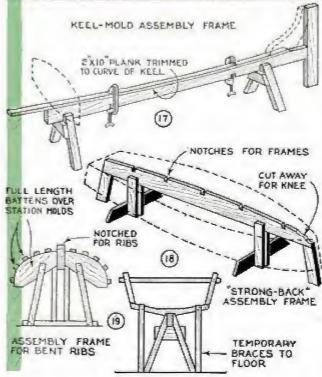




ter detail, and in Fig. 16, the lower-left details.

Shaping stem and knee: Oak may be used for stem and knee, Figs. 1, 3, 7 and 10. As a rabbet or V-groove must be cut for the ends of the planking along its curved length, the beginner may wish to make his stem in two pieces bolted together. In this manner he can form the groove with drawshave and plane, whereas in a one-piece stem the work must be done with a chisel. In the latter case the rabbet must be finished while the stem is installed on the keel permanently. Preliminary test notches may be cut on the workbench. When set up, these notches can be tested with a stick, or "fid," held against the first frame





as in the lower-right detail, Fig. 10. When the test notches, Fig. 7, are the proper depth, chisel out the waste between them to the same depth. Knees, Figs. 10 and 11, are made in two or three forms, one of them being left with a straight edge at the top so as to take advantage of the full strength of the wood. Cutting a curve in a stem is partly for appearance and partly to give more room forward. Shorter bolts, however, can be used in a cut-away knee. Stop-water plugs are essential to any wellbuilt stem assembly. These are simply soft white-pine dowels, about % in. in diameter, driven in to a tight fit. Moisture causes them to swell and form a watertight joint, Fig. 10.

Building the transom: The design of most boats permits transom frames being set up on the keel the same as station frames, and the planking put on later. In this case the transom frames differ from station-frame construction only in that there are butt instead of lap joints, with gussets on the forward side as in the upper-right detail, Fig. 16. Small transoms can be made in one piece without cleats or battens, but always require a knee. Getting the proper bevel on a transom is a job demanding great care, and usually can be done best after the transom is on the keel. Roughing cuts are done with a handsaw and finished with a plane. Where two or more planks are required for the transom, a neater calking job is accomplished by setting candle wicking in a rabbet with marine glue, than in the V-joint which would be visible. Bolt heads in transoms should be countersunk far enough to be covered with a wooden plug of the same material as the transom planking.

Fastening frames to keel: Galvanized or bronze hardware should be used throughout in all boats, especially in parts below the waterline. Various methods of fastening frames to the keel are given in the lower-left details, Fig. 16, each depending more or less on the design and size of the hull. In all cases screw or bolt heads outside the hull must be countersunk.

Assembly frames: Building a boat on a specially constructed frame makes the work much simpler. An easy one to build is a simple keel-mold with an upright at one end to support the stem, Fig. 17. The keel-mold is simply a plank with the upper edge trimmed to the curve of the keel. In this type of frame the boat is built upright. By building the boat upside down the planking problem is much easier, and this plan usually is handier for small craft. Another common method is the strong back assembly frame, Fig. 18. Hulls with bent ribs are easily built over a form as shown in Fig. 19. For hulls over 20 ft. long, and of considerable weight, a frame can be built of a series of 2 by 4-in. uprights cut to the proper length and angle to conform to the rabbet line, Fig. 15. The keel or keelson is easily bent to this line by a weight after which it can be secured with four or five screws driven into the uprights. When a deep keel or shaft log is to be installed, two or three of the uprights are simply knocked out to make room.

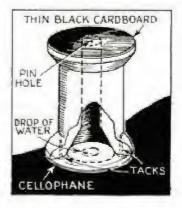
(To be continued)

Hose Held on Side of Mortar Box While Mixing Cement



To facilitate adding water to cement while mixing it single-handed, one workman used a short piece of wood having three holes drilled through it to take the hose as indicated. A pair of iron brackets screwed to the side of the mortar box supported the wood vertically and permitted it to be removed quickly when not needed.

Lots of Fun with Microscope Made from Spool



By using a wellknown optical principle, with but slight effort you can make an instrument capable of magnifying certain objects considerably. Take an ordinary thread spool, enlarge the bore in one end

and paint the inside surface black. Glue a piece of black cardboard over the top and pierce with a small needle. On the bottom tack a disk of Cellophane. Place a drop of water on this and lay a fly's wing or other thin, transparent object in place. Hold before a strong light and look through the pinhole.—H. Arrall, Newburyport, Mass.

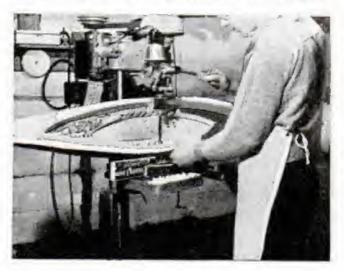
Beach Blanket Fastened in Place by Clips on Pegs



Beach blankets or picnic tablecloths are easy to fasten in place by slipping a paper clip of the type shown over each corner and driving a long wooden peg or a spike through the holes in the finger grips. The clips are obtainable in various sizes and the holes vary accordingly. Small dowels sharpened to a point will provide good stakes for the purpose on sandy beaches but spikes will hold sufficiently on sod.

Model Yacht Hulls Hollowed on Drill Press

After the outside of your boat has been shaped to final dimensions, place a felt pad on the table of your drill press, adjust the depth gauge to the thickness you want the walls to be, and with a ½-in. high-speed wood bit, or router, remove the surplus



stock by boring a series of overlapping holes. This can be carried almost to the extreme bow and stern, where a smaller bit will finish the job.

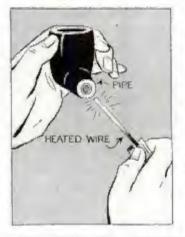
-Walter K. Moss, Milwaukee, Wis.

Fresh Paint Removed from Glass with Rubber Eraser

Paint that gets on the edge of a window pane when painting the sash, is removed easily with a pencil eraser. Work the end down to a chisel edge on fine sandpaper to give it a good wiping shape. After each stroke, wipe the rubber with a clean cloth.



Moisture Absorption in Pipe Stem Reduced by Charring

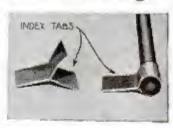


Many smokers who char the inside surfaces of their pipes to make them resistant to moisture absorption, overlook the wood portions of the stems. This is the portion where moisture collects while the pipe is in use and

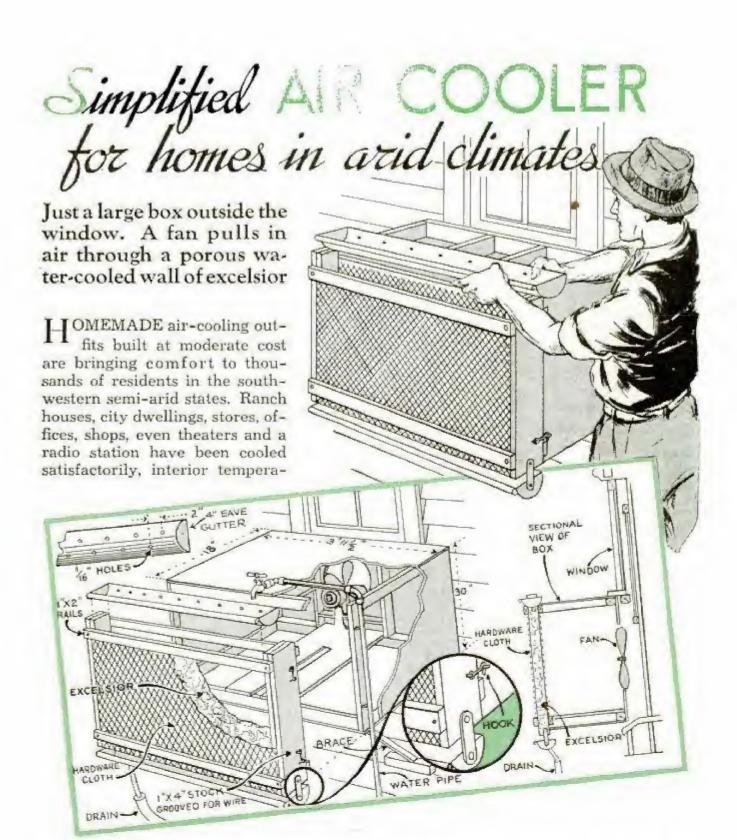
soon gives it a strong taste. To char the stem, heat a wire and push it into the stem.

Keeping Pencil from Rolling

Stick a paper index tab, of the kind shown, to a round pencil and it can not roll off your desk or table. The tab is light and

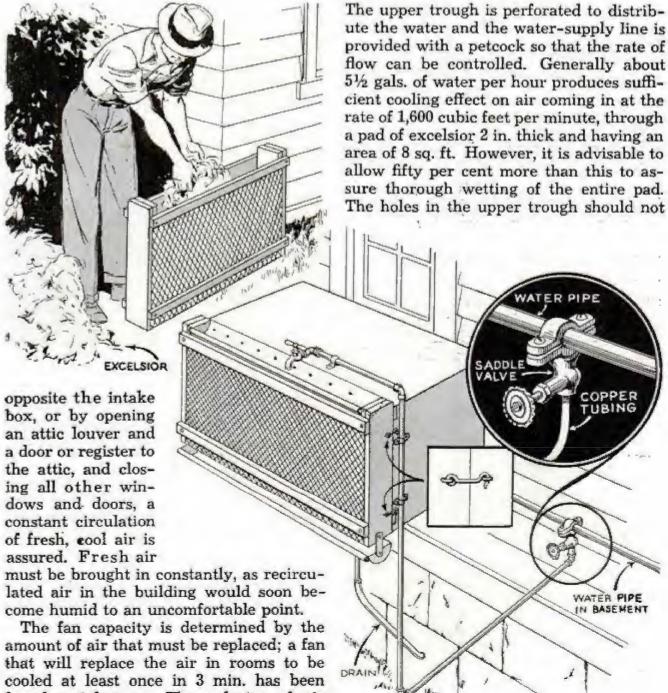


does not interfere with using the pencil or carrying it in the pocket.



tures being reduced from 10 to 20 degrees. However, it must be remembered that this method of cooling has been successful in regions where the air is dry but is not recommended for use in regions where summer humidity is relatively high.

Incoming air is drawn through a watermoistened layer of excelsior by means of a ventilator type of fan. An ordinary circulating type of house fan is not designed for this type of work and will not be effective. The layer of excelsior, about 2 in. thick, is held snugly between two screens of wire mesh or hardware cloth placed on one or more sides of a large box that fits against an open window on the shaded side of the building. The fan is placed in the side of the box opposite the excelsior wall. To assure that all the air will be drawn through the excelsior, the box must be fitted against the building carefully and accurately so that leakage of air at this point will be reduced to a minimum. By opening a window or door on the side of the building

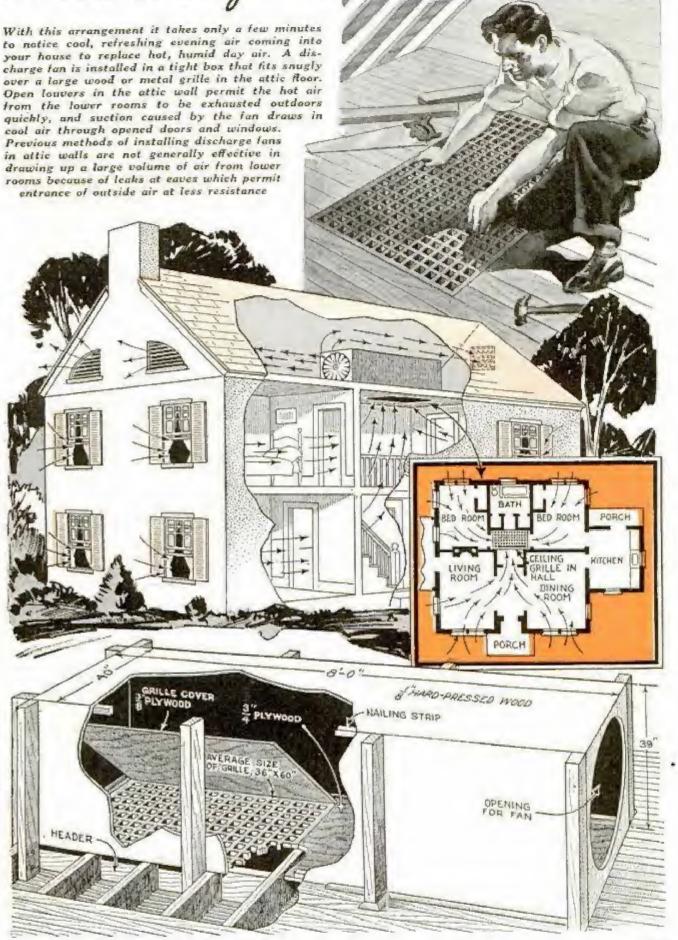


found satisfactory. The velocity of air passing through the excelsior should be kept below 200 ft. per minute. This can be accomplished with excelsior padding, packed at somewhat less than 2 lbs. per cubic foot. The padding also helps to filter dust and pollen from the air. When the excelsior becomes heavily coated with dust, breaks down from any cause, or if objectionable odors arise due to continuous wetting, it should be replaced with fresh material. A screen panel or a baffle can be placed in front of the fan inside the building to deflect the air and avoid direct drafts. To distribute water to the excelsion pad and to carry off the excess water, two short troughs are provided, one directly over the pad and the other one under it.

be larger than ½6 in. in diameter, are spaced 1 in. apart and are staggered along each side of the center line. To the lower trough, a length of pipe or hose is attached to carry off excess water.

An excelsior cooling unit can be installed in the cold-air duct of a warm-air furnace system having fan circulation. Close the air-return register so that air will not be recirculated, but outside air will be brought in. In making such an installation, do not overlook the need of adequate drainage from the cooling unit.

Iron rust on marble can be removed by rubbing the stain with lemon juice. ATTIC FAN gives NIGHT COMFORT



Paint-Bucket Hanger on Ladder Hooks over Rung



Both hands of the worker are left free and the paint bucket is still easily reached and readily moved if this metal hanger is used. It is made of flat iron and has two lugs welded in place which are bent to fit over and under a ladder rung.

Insect Powder Dusted on Plants with Skirted Sifter

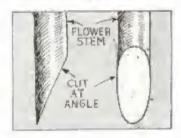
Needing a plant duster that could be used on windy days as well as on calm days, a gardener made one inexpensively from a flour sifter and a piece of cloth. The



latter was tied around the sifter and a wire ring was put in a seam in the bottom to give the cloth a cone shape.

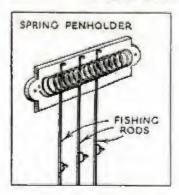
Flowers with Stems Cut at Angle Remain Fresh Longer

Before placing flowers in a vase, cut off the stems at an angle as indicated. This exposes more of the plant cells in the stem to the water,



which results in keeping the blossom fresh for a longer period of time than when the stem is cut straight across.

Penholder Supports Casting Rods and Protects Tips



Screw a bookkeeper's springtype penholder to the wall of your summer cottage and hang your casting rods in place so that they will not slide and bump the agate tips against the

floor or furniture. A holder of this type will support several light rods.

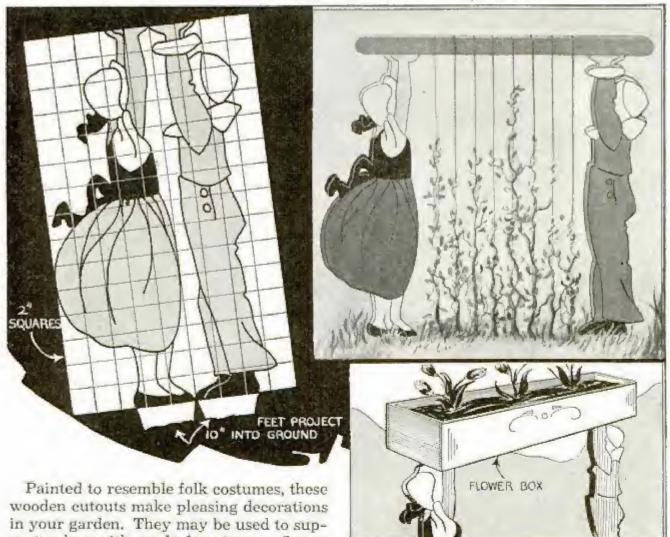
Using Door Turnbutton as Switch on Low-Voltage Current

Door turnbuttons provide handy switches at the electrical experimenter's bench where electric currents no stronger than those from a storage battery or toy transformers are handled. The but-



ton is mounted between two screws, which serve as wire terminals. The paint must be scraped from the bottom of the button to afford good electrical contact.

Gay Supports for Trellises and Flower Boxes

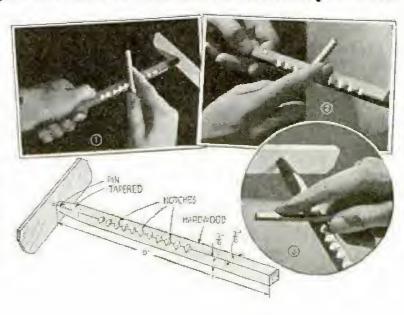


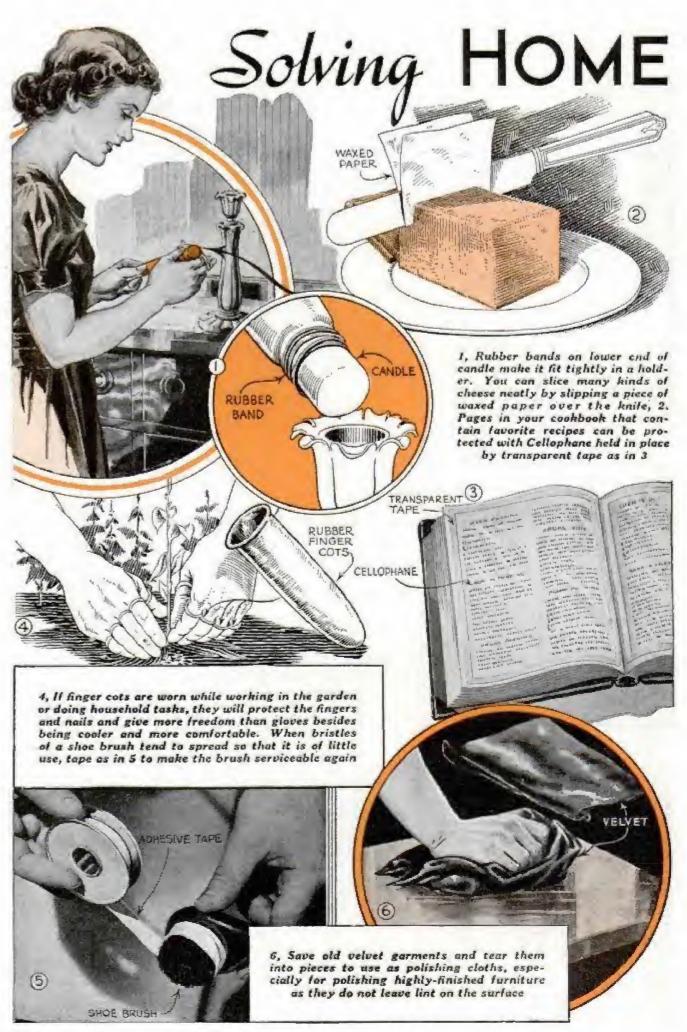
Painted to resemble folk costumes, these wooden cutouts make pleasing decorations in your garden. They may be used to support a bar with cords for vines, a flower box or a trellis. If the figures are to stand on the ground, the wood should project below the feet about 10 in. It is best to fasten them to wood or angle-iron stakes

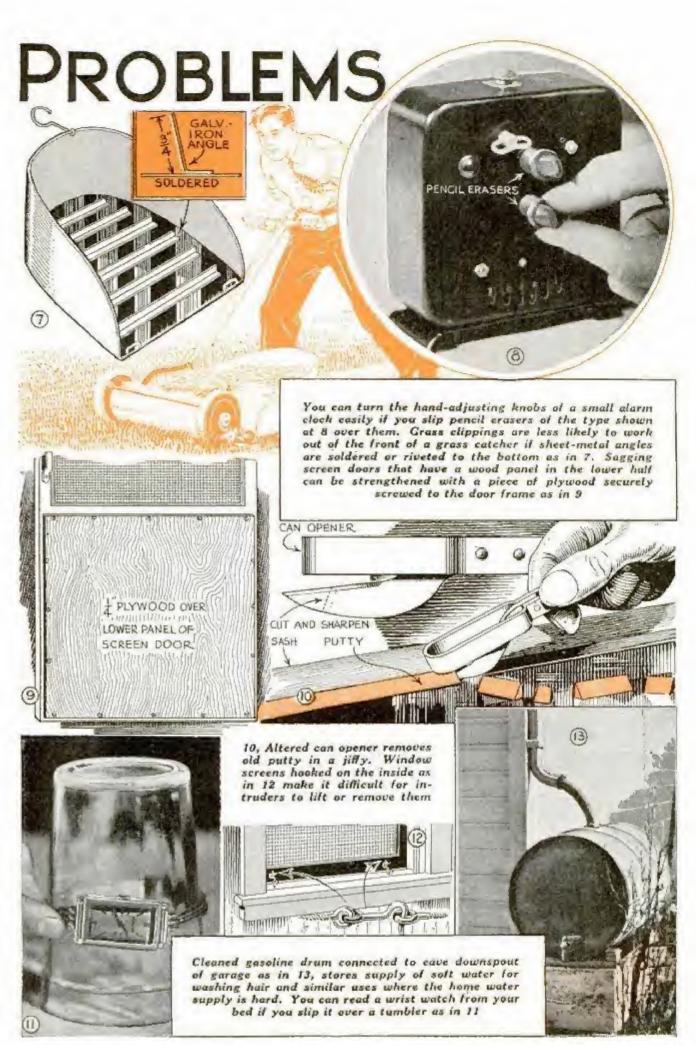
driven deeply into the ground. The appearance is pleasing with the girl costumed in black, red and white and the boy in a blue with white trim.

Magic Pinwheel Changes Rotation at Command of Voice

You can have fun mystifying your friends with this trick pinwheel, which changes direction of retation at a spoken command. The secret of making it spin is in the way the handle is rubbed. Grip the handle and rubbing stick as in Fig. 1 and, with a forward and backward movement, rub the stick over the notches, allowing the index finger to slide along one side as in Fig. 2. To reverse the direction, continue rubbing but lift the index finger as in Fig. 3, and let the end of the thumb nail rub against the opposite side.







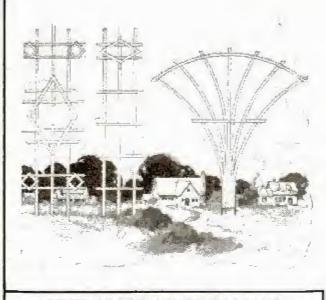
Protecting Throat of Saw Teeth When Filing



Cracks in a large circular saw are often the result of careless sharpening by allowing the file to slip down and nick the edge of the blade between the teeth. When this happens, vibration of the saw in use soon causes a crack to start from the nick. To avoid this trouble, one saw filer places a short length of sash cord between the teeth as shown.

Removing Traces of Gasoline in Steel Drums

When it is desired to utilize an empty steel gasoline drum for water storage all traces of gasoline can be removed as follows: First rinse the inside thoroughly with denatured alcohol, about 2 or 3 gals. After swishing the alcohol around so that it washes every portion of the inside surface, dump it out and repeat with a second alcohol wash in the same way. Then wash the interior of the barrel thoroughly with a boiling solution consisting of lye, 2 lbs., dissolved in water about 1/4 of the drum capacity. After the lye solution has been drained, copious applications of water will eliminate all traces of the lye. In obstinate cases, it may be found necessary to repeat the entire process.



POPULAR MECHANICS MAGAZINE 200 E. Ontario St. Chicago

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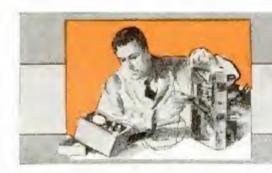
Anyone can make these simple trellises with a few ordinary tools found around the average home. All three of them can be built and painted in a few evenings.

Cost Is Slight

All the material you need is some standard molding strips available at lumber dealers in practically all localities. The cost is about a cent per running foot.

Craftplan Shows How

For complete information on building these trellises, together with detailed drawings that give all dimensions and show exact method of assembling, send for Craftplan No. 3007, which we will forward upon receipt of the coupon and ten cents. Be sure to print your name and address plainly.



Radio

Radio Phone for SMALL BOATS

SMALL pleasure and commercial craft operating in sounds, bays, or at moderate distances off shore are now provided with a means for direct communication with land telephones, other boats and the Coast Guard. A "Ship Station" license is required to cover the particular type of equipment to be used and a "Third Class Radiotelephone Operator's" license is also necessary. Such a license is obtained by passing a simple examination covering the general rules and regulations applicable to mobile communication services; no code test is required.

The combination receiver-transmitter shown in photos Figs. 1 and 2 is completely self-contained and all power is supplied directly from a 12-volt storage battery. Covering the 2,100-2,900 kc. marine and the standard broadcast bands, the receiver operates through a loud speaker, or through the handset for two-way communication. The transmitter provides a 50-watt carrier on three crystal-controlled frequencies, each of which may be selected instantly. A shore station receiver adapted for marine work appears in photo Fig. 3. This is an 8-tube, 4-band, 110-volt a.c.-d.c. super.







IC. DYNAMOTOR, HANDSET EN TYPE. B-TUBE SUPPLY FOR TRANSMITTER SECTION

C CAYSTELS

VIUR PARK PACK

VIUR PARK PACK

VIUR PARK PACK

due. Que

935

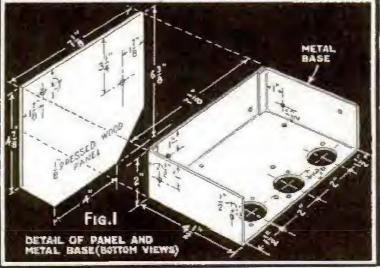
Personal A.C.D.C. THREE-TUBER



TRULY a personal radio receiver, this compact little 3-tube "silent" set solves a very common problem in homes where there is a radio listener whose taste in programs differs from that of the rest of the family. Many other useful applications are to be found in sick rooms, dormitories, fraternity houses and places where ordinary broadcast receivers are frequently a source of annoyance to those who do not wish to be disturbed. The inexpensive pillow speaker is a thin Bakelite-cased device which employs a "Brush" crystal unit. This is placed under a pillow on a bed or chair, and is audible only to the person using it. In the set to be described the unit replaces the usual headphones or loud speaker.

The receiver, various views of which are shown in photos A, B, C, D and E, is a low-cost reliable a.c.-d.c. tuned radio frequency 3-tuber of simple but compact design. It is assembled in an open chassis form which gives the builder an opportunity to use any type of midget cabinet he may have on hand. However, the set is complete as it appears in photo A, or with the plain pressed wood panel shown in photo B. The metal base, detailed in Fig. 1, is easily made by bending 1/16-in, sheet metal between two wood blocks clamped in a vise, or, one-half of a standard 2 by 9 by 7-in, metal chassis may be used. Three 11/8-in. socket holes are provided and other holes, as shown in Fig. 1. The metal baffle shield indi-

> cated in photo B is formed from a piece of galvanized iron. It should





be 3¼ in, high and 2 in, wide, with a 1¾-in, wing which extends between the tubes. Allowance must be made for a ½-in, bend at bottom for a mounting flange. All connections are clearly

shown in the simplified wiring diagram Fig. 2; the schematic circuit diagram is given in Fig. 3.

In wiring the set the metal base is used as a convenient "ground" return point and these "grounds" are made wherever a good soldered connection can be had, for example, to the machine screws holding sockets and various parts

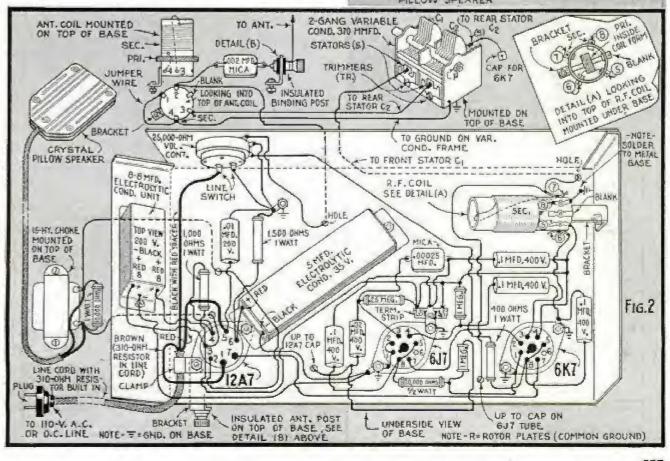
on the base. Please note that no external ground is used with this set. No filter choke is employed in the circuit; a 1,000-ohm resistor gives the necessary filter action. The coils are high-gain, Litz-wound,

unshielded types.

To balance the set, turn the variable condenser about % open; turn trimmer (Tr) on front section (C1) to about half capacity with a small screwdriver, then adjust trimmer on rear section (C2) for loudest noise. A weak station, around 1,400 kc., usually can be tuned in for balancing purposes. If your variable condenser has trimmers on

(Continued to page 138A)



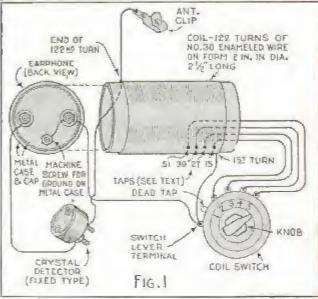


Low-Cost Pocket Set Has Built-In Earphone









ONLY a few parts are required to build this efficient little portable receiver which is entirely self-contained and actually small enough to slip into your pocket. It employs a modern fixed crystal in a simple circuit which is assembled in an unusually compact manner.

As most radio listeners know, a good crystal set will pull in local stations with ample volume and excellent tone, provided an antenna and ground are available. To make this possible under portable conditions, the circuit is arranged so that it may be clipped to any metal drain pipe, coldwater pipe, or bare metal part on a telephone, which will serve as an antenna. Operated in this manner, the range is from 2 to 12 miles, if the building is not of metal construction. In the home, where a good long outside antenna is available, a receiving range of about 30 miles for powerful stations is possible, under good conditions.

The coil is close-wound in clockwise fashion, on a short length of Bakelite or fiber tubing, and tapped for a 5-point coil switch in the manner shown in Fig. 1 and schematic diagram Fig. 2. These taps may be made by twisting the wire at the desired turn and pulling it through a small hole in the Bakelite tube. The ends of the twisted wire are bared of enamel and then soldered to the switch contacts as indicated in Fig. 1-A. The four taps on the coil aid in "peaking" the volume of the set which tunes quite broadly. The completed coil winding, which is continuous, is protected by a heavy piece of paper cemented over it. A disk of pressed wood, or thick card-

(Continued to page 136A)





POPULAR MECHANICS

Flashlight Cell Runs Big Radio



One small 1½-volt flashlight battery is used by a St. Louis dealer to operate this large farm-type battery receiver for short demonstrations; the set employs new low-drain tubes.

Phono-Attachment Is Portable

This radio-phonograph converter is designed to be placed on top of your large



console or underneath a midget receiver. The record player pulls out like a drawer; it employs a crystal pick-up and self-starting motor.

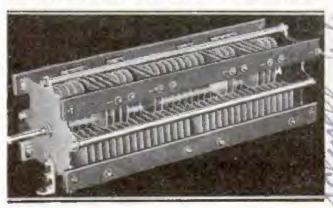
Meter Measures Sound Levels

Operating entirely from selfcontained batteries, this sound meter employs a non-directional microphone and is said to measure accurately the sound level produced by a public-address system for checking audience cov-



erage, and to permit comparison of speaker efficiencies; the range is from 50 to 130 db.

Multi-Band Variable Condenser



With a single rotor, this transmitting type condenser provides several separatedual-section variable condensers in a frame only 11 in. long. Split-stator values are thus available for all amateur bands, from 5 meters to 160 inclusive.

[Blueprints covering radio construction articles in this and past issues are available for 25 cents each. Original material lists with names of manufacturers and dealers, can be obtained from our Radio Department upon receipt of postage.

NEXT MONTH—How to Build an Audio Amplifier for Beginner's Battery Set. Complete construction details for adding a loud-speaker stage to a simple one-tube broadcast receiver; of special interest to those who built the "Three-in-One" Progressive Sets R-256. Also—An Inexpensive Home-Built Universal Test Meter



SHOP NOTES



EXTENSIVELY used in industry for finishing small parts of wood, metal and plastic, the tumbling barrel, Fig. 1, affords an excellent method of finishing in home shop work. A beautiful surface of velvety smoothness can be obtained in this manner—a finish practically impossible to duplicate by any other method.

The first requirement is the barrel, Fig. 3.

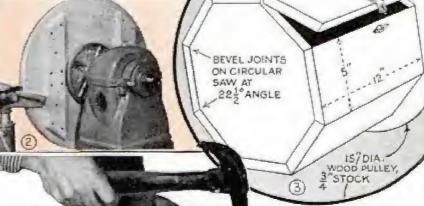
Stock used in the construction should be hard maple. The assembly is first made by nailing the



Wood, metal or plastics can be given beautiful finishes

BARREL SHOULD BE ABOUT

WORK MARBLES

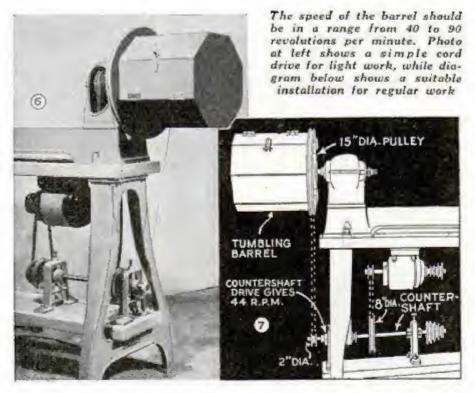


Above, suitable mix for wax

Above, suitable mix for wax tumbling wooden parts, using paraffin

pieces together, as shown in Fig. 5, after which the joints should be permanently fastened with screws. One section is hinged to form a lid. Then the barrel is fastened to a pulley turned from hardwood as in Figs. 2 and 3. This completes the tumbling unit.

Plastics, wood or metal objects can be tumbled successfully, but slightly different methods must be used in each case. For wood parts, the work should first be sanded smooth and colored with stain.



Then, into the barrel, together with a quantity of paraffin cubes and steel balls or glass marbles, the proportions being about as shown in Fig. 4. The paraffin finish can be applied in about 1½ hours; harder waxes such as carnauba and beeswax require a longer period of tumbling. If the resulting coat of wax should be too heavy, decrease the amount of wax cubes and increase the amount of work and marbles. A further luster can be given waxed work by tumbling the pieces with small squares of cloth.

Plastics require three tumbling operations. The first is a rough ashing or scouring operation, which removes tool marks, etc. The second gives a semipolish, while the final tumble brings out the full gloss. A total of about twelve hours is required for the complete cycle. The polishing agent is the same material which you would use if polishing by hand, together with small scraps of plastic or "pegs." Pegs and abrasives for this work can be purchased for about twelve cents per pound.

The speed of the barrel

is most important. It is essential that this be kept below 90 r.p.m. At slightly higher speeds the work will bounce, with the result that the finish will be pitted; at about 150 r.p.m. the work will not tumble at all, but will simply cling to one side of the barrel through centrifugal force. For light loads, a suitable speed can be obtained by using a belt made from stout cord, running this directly over the ¾-in. lathe countershaft, Fig. 6. Slight slippage will result in a speed of about 60 r.p.m. For regular work, the drive shown in Fig. 7 is suitable.

Automatic Hog Feeder Assembled from Drum and Wheel

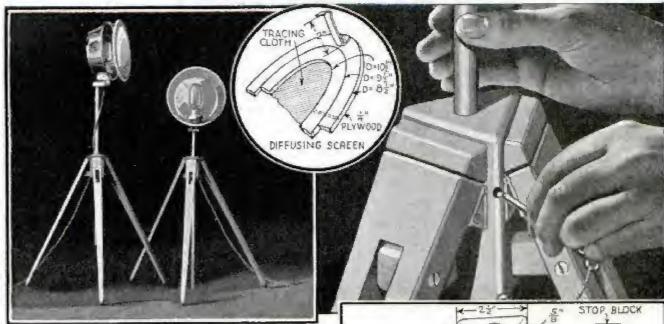


All-metal construction of this feeder assures long life and plenty of weight to prevent tipping. It consists of a steel oil drum having both ends removed and fastened to the center of a large implement wheel. Hooks bent from iron rods are slipped over the wheel spokes and bolted to the drum to keep it in place. It is a good idea to set the feeder on a concrete platform. In addition to making it more sanitary, this will help keep damp ground from causing the dry feed to rot.

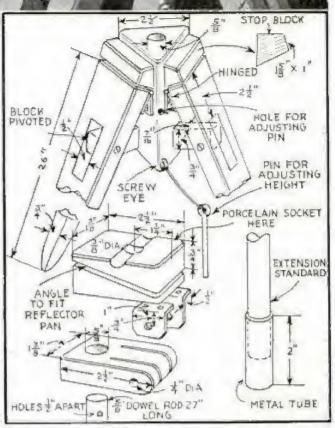
-A. S. Wurz, Jr., Carbon, Alberta, Can.

(If you cover door hinges, locks, etc., with vaseline before painting the woodwork, the paint can be wiped off easily if it gets on these articles.

These Folding Flood-Lamp Stands Are Rigid



Folding compactly, the legs of these stands lock rigidly when opened. They are hinged to a triangular block or body bored lengthwise to take a %-in. dowel, which serves as a lamp standard. Hardwood arms pivoted in slots in the legs open horizontally to brace the latter against the body, and stop blocks glued and nailed to the body above the ends of the legs prevent them from opening too far. Height adjustment of the standard is obtained by a pin, which passes through a hole in the body to engage one of a number of small holes bored part way through the standard. The lamps are homemade, and each one consists of a 10-in, aluminum-pan reflector carrying a socket and bulb. For mounting, the pan is nailed between two wood blocks, and the assembly is drilled for the lamp cord, a porcelain socket being screwed to the block inside the pan. To provide a tilting arrangement for the reflector, the assembly is pivoted to a slotted block on the standard by means of two metal angles as indicated in the lower detail. A diffusing screen for the lamp consists of two ply-



wood rings, one to fit snugly inside the other, with a piece of tracing cloth stretched tightly and clamped between them as shown in the circular detail.

Cleats to Hold Temporary Wiring Made from Spring Clothespins



If you have occasion to string insulated wires for temporary lighting or other uses, spring-type clothespins provide good cleats for anchoring the wires. Take the pins apart, which is done easily, and cut off a short piece from one leg of each one. Then screw the short legs to the wall or other anchoring place and reassemble the pins.

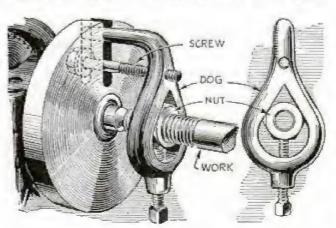
"Button-On" Pockets Hold Nails of Different Sizes



Annoyed by the necessity of emptying nails of one size from his apron pocket when changing to other work, a Wisconsin carpenter made several pockets with buttonholes in the upper corners so that they might be attached or removed in a jiffy. Each pocket was lettered to indicate the size nail it contained.

Adapting Lathe Dog for Threads

Whenever it is necessary to use a lathe dog on the threaded end of work, I use the method shown, which prevents any possibility of the dog slipping and damaging the threads. The dog is drilled and tapped for a stud, which projects into the faceplate slot along with the end of the dog. In use, a nut is run on the work and the dog is

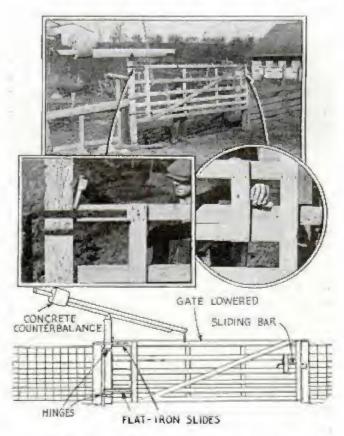


clamped to the nut. Then the stud is inserted into the faceplate and screwed into the dog. The stud, which has a head, keeps the dog and nut from turning on the work.

—H. Moore, Leeds, Eng.

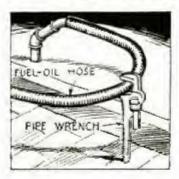
This Farm Gate Can Be Raised or Swung to One Side

This gate can be opened in the usual manner, or it can be raised to permit hogs and other small animals to walk under it, without passing horses and cattle. The gate proper is made in the usual way except the vertical member at the hinged end. This member is hinged to the gate post and the gate is attached to it by two flat-iron loops or slides, which permit the gate to be moved up or down. An adjustable concrete counterbalance makes this action easy, the



counterbalance being supported on the end member. This has notches at the rear edge so that the upper slide will slip into one of them when the gate is raised and a wedge inserted between the member and the end of the gate, as shown in the left center photo. The latch is self-locking. It consists of a length of 2 by 4-in. stock mounted in the usual way and slips into a notch in the gate post. The lock is different, however, and consists of a block pivoted between the short vertical members to drop in a tapered notch in the latch, as shown in the circular photo.

Fuel-Oil Hose Propped by Wrench to Prevent Sagging



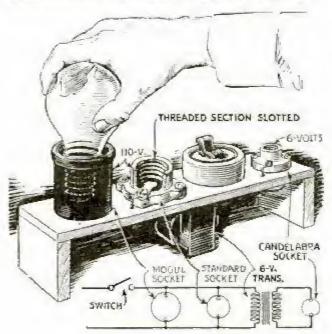
A truck driver who delivers fuel oil to the building where I live uses a pipe wrench as shown to support the oily hose and keep it off the sidewalk or lawn. The jaws of the

wrench are tightened against the hose just enough to hold it in place.

-Wm. Swallow, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Test Board Accommodates Lamps of Various Sizes

It always creates a better impression if the lamps a customer buys are tested while he is watching. By using a mogul base, the ordinary bulb can be tested in a second or two without removing it from the wrapper, and the same applies to the candelabra bulbs which are tested in an ordinary socket. Radio and flashlight bulbs are tested with a doorbell transformer. A fixed radio rheostat hooked in series with the socket will lower the current to $2\frac{1}{2}$ volts or whatever needed.—Morris Katz, Aurora, Ill.



Book Display Rack from Car Axle Rotated by Customer



The problem of reaching books near the front of a show window was solved by this rack, which can be rotated. It consists of one-half a car-axle assembly complete with the wheel. This is bolted to a castered platform so that it can be moved, and the wheel is fitted with a sheet-metal skirt, which flares downward at a 45° angle to provide a display rack. Turning up the bottom of the skirt forms a ledge to support one row of books. Two rows can be supported by riveting or soldering a sheet-metal rim around the center of the skirt.

Dirt Tamper Cleans Easily with Cloth over Face

You can minimize the trouble caused by wet soil sticking to a dirt tamper by tying a cloth over it. Dirt does not stick to cloth as readily as to metal, making fewer cleanings necessary.



Cord Is Pulled Through Cork in Counter



To keep the end of wrapping twine conveniently at hand on his counter, one merchant bored a hole in the counter top through which the twine was fed from below. A split-cork insert provided enough friction to prevent the string from slipping back, yet allowed it to be pulled up easily when wanted.

Springs on Tops of Fence Posts Keep Chickens Out of Yard

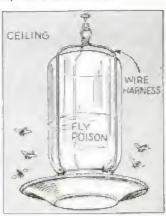
If you are bothered by having chickens fly up on fence posts around your yard or garden and then drop down inside the lot, try stapling coil springs from a bed spring or auto cushion on top of the posts. When a chicken tries to alight on the spring, its



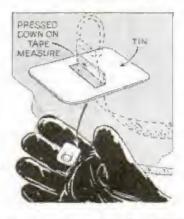
weight causes the spring to tilt. After a few attempts to alight on the springs, the chickens are broken of the habit.

Fly Poison Dispensed Safely from Poultry Fountain

Wishing to use liquid fly poison about a produce warehouse, one merchant placed it in a small poultry water fountain, which he suspended from the ceiling by means of a wire harness and a screw hook.



Metal Tab on Measuring Tape to Hold It with Gloves

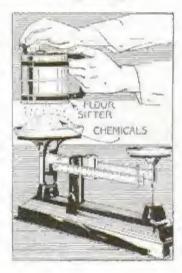


To stretch and hold a long measuring tape while wearing gloves, a workman cut a washer from a piece of tin and clipped it to the tape end as shown. A U-shaped slit in the clip permitted the center piece to

be bent up for the insertion of the tape and closed again to hold it securely in place.

Chemicals Measured with Sifter for Accurate Weighing

It is difficult to release just the right amount of chemicals from a scoop when weighing them on a balance scale, but you can do it easily and save time if you use a flour sifter. This enables you to stop pouring the instant the beamtips.



LIGHT METER TIMES ENLARGEMENTS

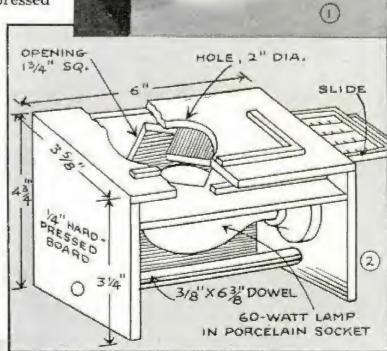
THIS light-meter attachment saves time and minimizes guesswork in timing enlargements or contact prints. All you do to check a negative for exposure time is lay it over an opening in the top of the attachment, turn on the lamp, set your exposure meter on top of the negative and pull out a calibrated slide until the correct light value is indicated by the meter pointer. Then a glance at the slide gives you the correct exposure time. The attachment will accommodate any type of electric exposure meter on the market, and the volume of light it can measure, or the size and number of divisions on the dial, make no difference.

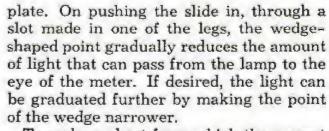
The attachment is made of hard-pressed

board, although metal or any light wood will do. The parts are shown in Fig. 2, and consist of a top plate with a 2-in, hole over which the eye of the meter rests; two side pieces or legs and a dowel stretcher for reinforcement. The lamp is 60 watts with a porcelain socket, which is screwed to one of the side pieces. Assembly is best accomplished with waterproof casein glue or cellulose cement.

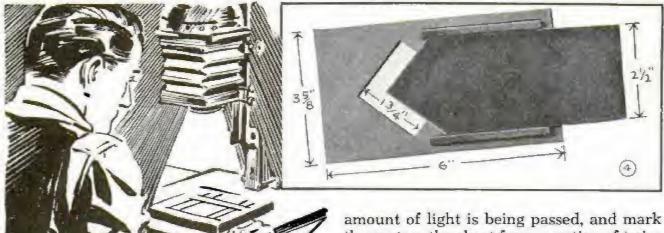
The heart of the device is the wedge-shaped slide in Fig. 4. It works on a piece having a square opening, which is alined directly under the round hole in the top

(3)





To make a chart from which the correct exposure time is read, temporarily cement a strip of paper to the slide. Carefully test a negative to determine its exact printing time for both contact and enlarging. Then lay it over the hole in the top plate, and place the meter on top as in Fig. 1. Select



a low light value on the meter (4 was chosen for the meter illustrated) and withdraw the slide until the needle is exactly over the light value. At this point make a pencil line on the paper chart under the wire indicator shown in Fig. 3. Mark the line as the correct point on the chart for a negative of this density by noting the number of seconds for contact printing and enlarging. Pull the slide further until the meter needle indicates twice the previous

the spot on the chart for a negative of twice the density of the first. Double the number of seconds for exposure. Other exposure times are noted in the same way. After the chart has been calibrated fully, remove it and mark the data permanently with India ink, and cement it in place. Any negative can be judged quickly by laying it in place under the meter and withdrawing the slide until the needle is over light value No. 4 on the dial, or over whatever value you have selected. The chart will then show the correct number of seconds exposure when the enlargement is to be made on medium-contrast paper. If a hard grade of paper is used it will require 1/4 more time, and a soft paper 1/4 less time. If desired, you can mark these figures in separate columns on the chart.

Toe Stop on Child's Scooter Provides Sure Grip for Foot

Noticing that his small son had difficulty keeping his foot on a scooter, one father



tacked the toe of an old shoe to the foot board as shown. This was especially useful when the boy's shoe soles were wet or muddy and consequently slippery. The old shoe toe should be plenty large to allow the foot to slip in or out of it easily.

Bottle-Cap Lure Attracts Fishes

The nature of some fishes to investigate a shiny object can be utilized by the still fisherman to attract them to his baited hook. A good way to do

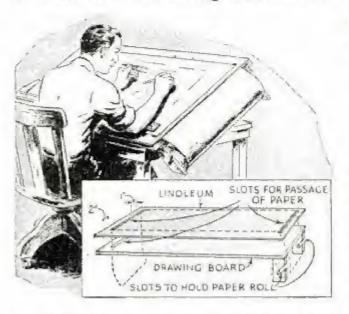


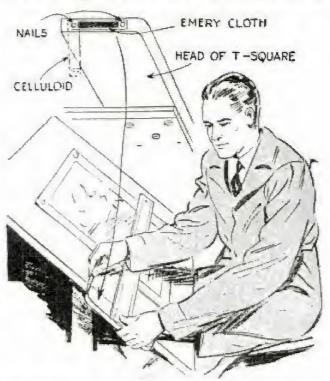
this is to crimp a bright bottle cap over the lead sinker. Be sure the edges of the cap do not touch the line and wear it in two.

-A. H. Waychoff, Phoenix, Ariz.

Timesaving Ideas That Help the Draftsman

You will always have a pencil pointer at hand when using a T-square if a piece of sandpaper or emery cloth is cemented to the head of the square as shown at the right. A strip of celluloid pivoted to the head swings over the abrasive and provides a shield to avoid soiling the hands. The free end of the shield should be slotted to slip under a small nail head, which keeps it in place. Artists and draftsmen who do work that can be sketched on inexpensive paper will find the drawing board below a timesaver. Jobs having a number of



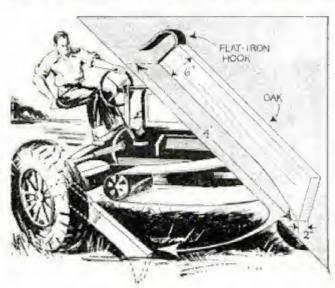


sketches that usually require several sheets of regular paper can be drawn on one continuous sheet by unrolling the paper as required. Strips of cellulose tape can be used to hold the paper in place on the board while sketching on it. The tape is removed and replaced easily when you have to unroll more paper.

Brace to Keep Tractor Belt Tight Better than Wheel Chock

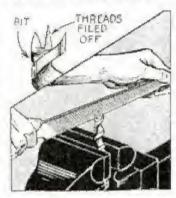
Why risk injuring your hands while chocking a wheel to tighten a tractor belt? The brace shown almost automatically prevents forward movement when a tractor is backed into the belt. The hook end

of the brace drops over the axle housing and the other end drags on the ground. When the belt is tight, a helper sinks the free end of the brace into the ground by striking it with a sledge.



Using Auger Bit in Drill Press

You can use an auger bit in a drill press simply by cutting off the square shank and filing the screw point till the threads are smooth. This keeps it from biting into the wood



and jamming, and it then may be operated at medium speed with good results.

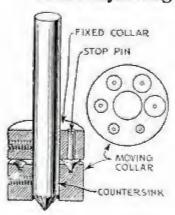
Set Screw on Shingler's Hatchet Gives Uniform Spacing



Three or more courses of shingles can be laid at once and they will all be straight and even when each shingle is gauged before nailing down. Measure 4½ in. down from the head of your hatchet, drill and tap a hole to take a ¼ by 1-in. screw. In use, the projecting screw bears against the lower edges of shingles already nailed in place, while shingles to be laid are slid down against the hatchet head, in which position they are ready for fastening.

-W. E. Satterfield, Danville, Ill.

Self-Adjusting Countersink

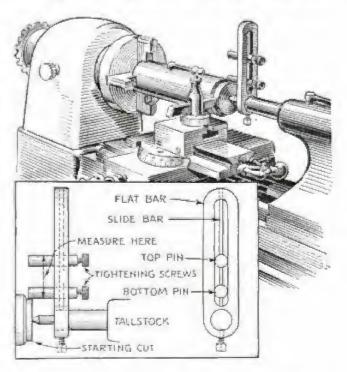


This adjustable countersink is superior to most others as it is quickly adjusted. Make up two collars for a sliding fit on the countersink and drill and tap them for set screws. Then fit the upper one with a taper-

headed stop pin as shown. In the upper surface of the lower collar drill a number of countersunk depressions of different diameters to take the head of the stop pin. In use, the lower collar is loosened so that the stop pin engages the depression which is the same depth as that desired for the hole to be countersunk.

Rotating Work Is "Miked" with Aid of This Fixture

When turning a number of duplicate pieces this fixture will enable you to check the work with a micrometer without stopping the lathe. The fixture is bored at one end to slip snugly over the tailstock spindle, and is held in place with a set screw. A closed slot in the center has a slide bar running through it lengthwise, and two steel pins drilled to fit snugly on the bar and in the slot, which keeps them parallel. They are drilled and tapped at the ends for set screws to lock them on the slide bar. In use, the lower pin is moved down to touch the top of the work after it has been turned to size, and is locked in place. Then the



top pin is adjusted so that the distance from its top surface to the underside surface of the other one is equal to the diameter of the work. Now, when a new piece is being turned, the lower pin is loosened and rests on top of the work. When you want to "mike" the work, just tighten the lower pin and adjust the micrometer over both of them, loosening the pin after the measurement has been taken. If the measurements are critical, the fixture must be made carefully so that all parts fit snugly.



Neat Display Trays in Fruit Store Quickly Cut from Cartons



These simple but neat trays to display fruit and vegetables will help to increase sales. With a ruler and sharp knife, cut up some empty cartons, as shown in the detail. Each tray consists of two parts, both of which are corners cut from the box. A coat of furniture lacquer or automobile enamel improves the appearance considerably and gives your store an exclusive atmosphere at a slight cost.

—W. C. Wilhite, Carlinville, Ill.

Space Needed for Plants and Trees Specified in Chart

If you have a certain number of plants and wish to know how much space they will occupy, this chart tells at a glance. If you want to know the exact number of

(T)	DISTANCE	NUMBER
AT De	I FT, X I FT	43560
£4	192 n X 192 n	19360
	1½" X 1½"	10890
	21/2" X 21/2"	6970
1	3 " X "	14520
	3 " X I " 3 " X 2 "	7260
N. I	3 " X 3 "	4840
The second	33 · × 2 3 · · × 3 5 · · × 5 6 · · × 5 6	2722
(2)	5 " X 5 "	1742
3. 1		1210
. 6		537
18.	12 " X 12 "	302
al a	15 " X 15 "H	194
	18 " X 18 "	134
1	20 " X 20 "	103
ACVAC"	25 m × 25 m	70
	30 " × 30 "	40
	40 " X · 40 "	27
	7	
		4. 1
	THE THINK IN	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH

plants an acre will accommodate, read the table backwards. Figured on the basis of one acre, 43,560 sq. ft. of ground, the number and spacing of everything from tomato vines to fruit trees can be determined.

-M. B. Birge, Hinsdale, Ill.

Small Quantities of Water Heated with Soldering Iron

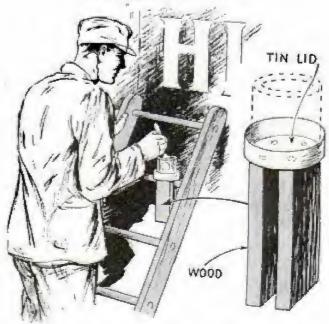
When small quantities of liquids must be heated in the shop, you can do the job quickly with a soldering iron. A brass or copper tube large enough to take the iron is flattened at one end and bent over as indicated to



prevent liquid from entering. In use, just insert the iron and tube into the liquid like an immersion heater.

—M. G. Winterton, Ft. Lewis, Wash.

Holder for Paint Can Straddles Rung on Ladder



Painters and sign writers will find this holder just the thing for small cans of trim or lettering paint. It consists of two strips of wood nailed to a can lid so that they will straddle a rung. The strips act as a counterweight to keep the holder from tipping.

Finishing the FARM TRACTOR

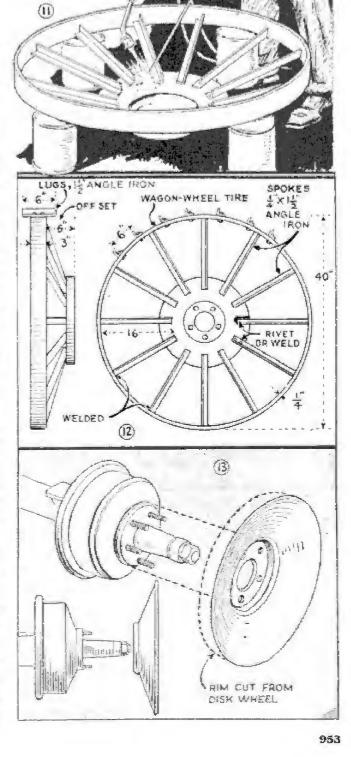


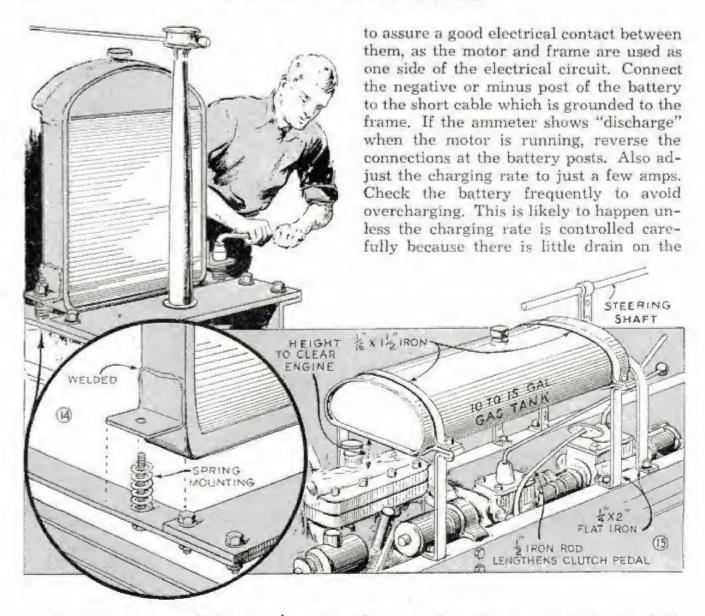
Assembling rear wheels, installing radiator, battery and ignition system, drawbar, driver's seat, etc.

By HAROLD SUDDABY

A FTER finishing the tractor frame and installing the motor, driving mechanism and rear end, you are ready for the wheels. Each rear wheel consists of a wagon-wheel tire 40 in, in diameter and 3 in. wide, twelve angle-iron spokes 16 in. long, and the disk wheel that came with the truck rear end as shown in Fig. 12. First cut off the rim of the truck wheel as in Fig. 13 and place it level on a floor. Next place the wagon tire over the wheel and support it 6 in, above the wheel. Space the spokes equi-distant around the wheel and tire and weld them in place as in Fig. 11. If desired, you can hot-rivet the spokes to the wheel, and if possible electric weld them to the tire as this gives a stronger joint than a welding torch. Now drill the tire and bolt angle-iron or steel lugs to it 6 in. apart. If the work has been done carefully, you now have a wheel with a 6-in. dish that is strong enough to withstand the pulling strain of the tractor. If you care to go to the added expense you can use rubber tires instead of the steel rims. If this is done, cut the spokes to suit the rims and assemble the wheel in the same way.

Next comes the fuel tank. As the model-A motor has an updraft carburetor with a gravity feed, the tank must be elevated above the motor in a manner similar to that shown in Figs. 15 and 16. Install the radiator so that you can have the regular hose connections, using the original spring-type mounting as in Fig. 14. Install the original model-A ignition system complete with generator and starter. Make up a





wood instrument panel for the ammeter and switch and mount it at the rear of the gas tank. Bolt the coil to the front end of the gas-tank support and run a wire from one terminal of the coil to the ignition switch. Connect the other terminal of the coil with the starter button. The wire from the generator to the starter completes the primary circuit. A wire from the center of the coil to the distributor cap completes the high-tension circuit. The throttle and choke are operated with dash-type controls, and should be placed close at hand. In fact, all of the controls are on the right-hand side of the steering-post support.

Any good 6-volt storage battery will do for the tractor, and you can use the original Ford battery cables, grounding the short one to the tractor frame and running the longer one to the starter terminal. As the tractor is operated under dusty conditions, it is a good idea to solder a heavy copper wire to the motor and to the frame battery when the tractor is in the field. The starter switch is attached to the starter housing so you will have to run a small iron rod from it to within easy reach of the seat so that the motor can be started from this point.

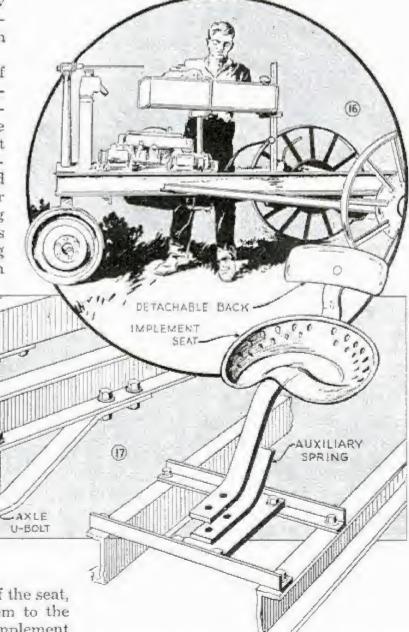
The seat should be mounted so that it will support several times the normal weight of the driver. This is important as serious accidents can result if the seat breaks while the tractor is pulling an implement such as a disk harrow. Fig. 17 shows a way of mounting an ordinary implement seat to give ample strength. A spring back like that shown adds both comfort and safety for it will help to prevent the driver being thrown from the seat when running over rough ground. Bolt the seat to the frame a suitable distance from the steering wheel as in Fig. 17, using lock washers under the nuts. It is a good idea to use lock washers under all nuts throughout the tractor as the shocks received in

this type of work have a tendency to loosen them. The method of attaching a simple drawbar is shown in Fig. 17.

The rest of the job consists of finishing touches. You may question the fact that standard Chevrolet disk wheels are used on the front without additional rims but this was found entirely satisfactory in actual use. You can add individual brakes on each rear wheel which will help in turning while pulling heavy loads. This can be accomplished by bolting two 1-in, flat-iron handles on each

FLAT

BXI



side of the frame slightly ahead of the seat, using ¼-in. rods to connect them to the brake arms. A coat of good implement paint will improve the appearance of the finished machine. The first time you run the tractor it may be a little puzzling because of the two gear shift-levers. The first thing to do is to place both of them in low gear and use the Ford transmission

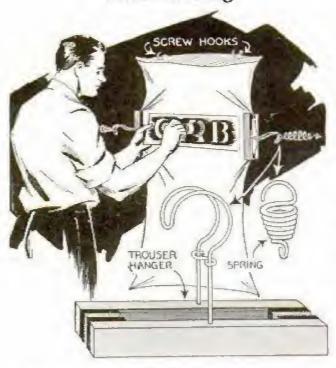
for higher speed if necessary. When you have completed this machine, you will find that it has plenty of power and that its turning ability and usefulness are far superior to most tractors built from car parts.

Welding Temperature of Aluminum Shown by Sawdust

When aluminum is to be welded, preheating of the metal should not exceed 850 degrees Fahr. While experienced workers can judge when the correct temperature is being approached by tapping with a rod, or by visual inspection, beginners can determine approximate temperature by using thoroughly dry, fine, hardwood sawdust. This is sprinkled uniformly on the metal with a corn popper or flour sifter. The degree of charring of the sawdust

when applied to the metal not only shows when the right temperature is reached, but also indicates the uniformity of preheating. If the sawdust is partly charred promptly after it touches the hot metal, the temperature is sufficiently high. Sawdust containing any appreciable degree of moisture will resist charring to a greater extent than thoroughly dry sawdust, and for this reason it should be stored in a very dry place.—John E. Hyler, Peoria, Ill.

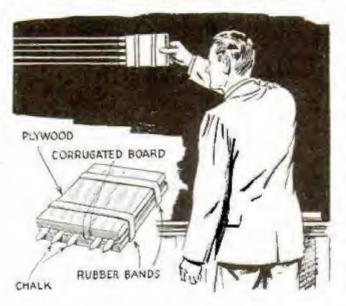
Trouser Hangers Stretch Sacks for Stenciling



Finding it difficult to stretch grain sacks for stenciling initials on them, a grain merchant attached a couple of trouser hangers to the wall to hold them. The hangers were suspended from coil springs and spaced to spread the sack between them. Screw hooks in the wall above supported the upper portion of the sack out of the way.

Ruling Lines on Blackboard with Multiple Chalk Holder

Corrugated cardboard glued to two pieces of plywood provides a multiple chalk holder for ruling parallel lines on blackboards. The pieces of chalk are



slipped in the grooves and rubber bands are snapped on the holder to keep the whole assembly tightly together.

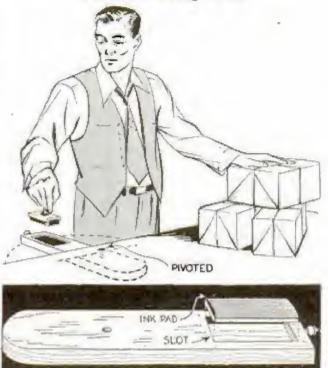
Tiny Parts Placed on Powder Puff Are Picked Up Easily

Annoyed by the difficulty of picking up small parts used in watch repairing, a jeweler uses a powder puff as a substitute for a tray, from which the tiny parts are lifted with tweezers. It is a good idea to cement the



powder puff to a fairly heavy base to prevent it from being knocked off the table.

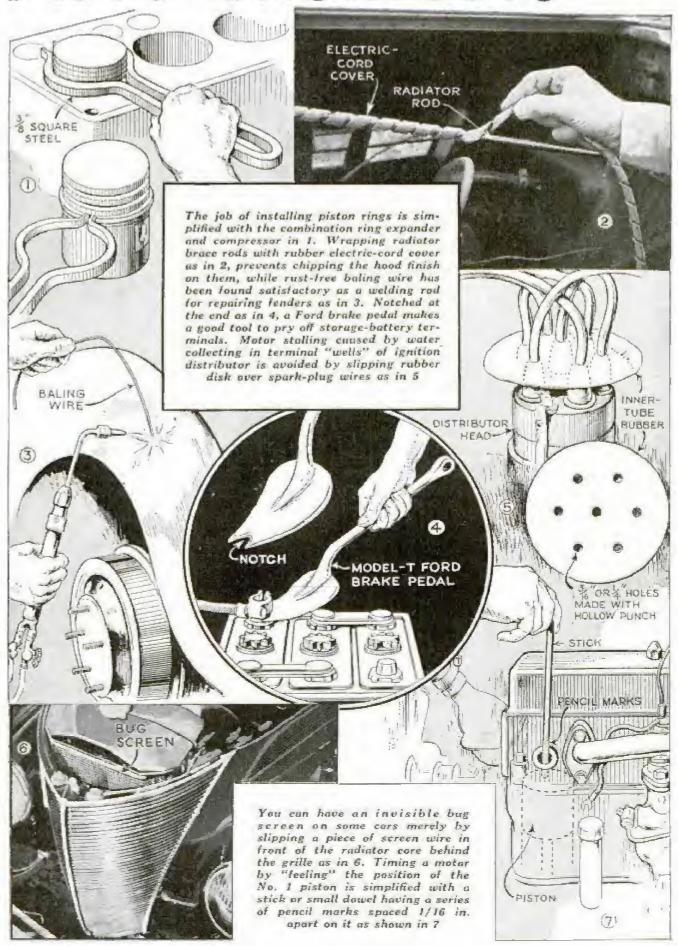
Swinging Shelf under Table Holds Stamp Pad



To have his stamp pad out of the way when not in use, yet handy when needed, a shipping clerk keeps it on a swinging shelf pivoted to the underside of his worktable. The pad fits in a slot or recess so that it is flush with the top of the shelf.

■Use mild soap on gold-decorated glassware; strong soap may remove the gold.

AUTO SHORTCUTS . . .



Sloping Rack on Ice-Truck Floor Saves Climbing Inside



To avoid climbing inside an ice truck to move heavy cakes forward, one driver installed a rack that sloped toward the rear so that they would tend to slide into position. The rack should reach to within about 2 ft. of the rear of the body. This will allow one cake to rest on the floor and help keep the others from sliding out.

Trailer Lock Has Handle Flush with Door Surface



A car-door lock of the type that has the inside handle projecting vertically through the window frame, can be used to provide a fingertip control for the door of a trailer so that no handle

projects beyond the outside surface of the door. Locks of this type were used on cars several years ago and can be picked up at most junk yards. To install the lock, which is placed with the vertical handle outside, cut a recess in the door panel at the proper point to allow a finger to reach the top latch handle as shown. The projecting handle is placed on the inside surface of the door. Slight changes in the mechanism make it possible to lock the door from the inside with the regular push button and from the outside with the key.

—A. H. Vance, McNaughton, Wis.

Grease on Spark-Plug Insulators Causes Motor to "Miss"

If your motor misfires badly when first started during exceptionally damp weath-

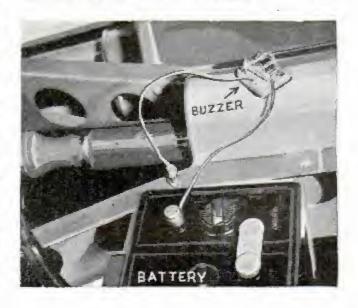
er, the trouble is probably caused by dirt and grease on the surface of the spark plugs. This grime collects moisture from the air and allows the plug to short circuit across the percelain insula-



tor. Usually such trouble can be avoided by keeping the porcelain clean.

Audible Check for Short Circuits Better Than Sight

Connected into the ground cable between the frame and battery, a door buzzer is handy to check wiring for a short circuit as it will sound when the "short" occurs. To make the check, remove all lamps in the car and insulate the distributor points by slipping a piece of heavy paper between



them. Then turn on all switches and go over the wiring, moving it from side to side and back and forth, especially where it passes over or through metal objects.

Improving Relined Car Brakes



By the time brake lining has worn to a point where it has to be replaced, the brake drums have usually worn off to some extent too, or maybe they have become rough and have to be turned down slightly. In such cases, when new linings are applied,

their curvature and that of the drums will not be the same with the result that uniform contact between them is impossible, and the effectiveness of the brakes is greatly reduced. To compensate for wear on the drums, a strip of thin sheet asbestos is cemented to the brake shoe before riveting the lining in place.

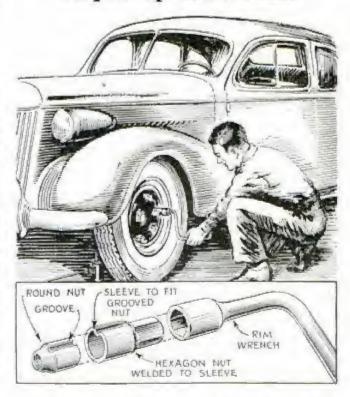
Noisy Tappets Are Silenced by Screen-Door Spring

Due to side thrust of cams as a camshaft raises and lowers the valves, the tappets eventually wear in their guides and cause a rapping noise. Generally this can be prevented for many thousands of miles by



exerting slight side pressure on the tappets with a screen-door spring threaded between them as indicated.

Theft-Proof Nuts for Car Wheels Require Special Wrench

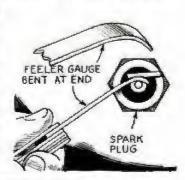


Thieves will have difficulty in taking your wheels and tires if you alter one nut on each wheel as shown. Grind it off round and file a groove in one side. Then make up a socket from a short piece of heavy tubing that will just slip over the altered nut and form a depression in one side to fit the groove. Weld a wheel nut to the socket so you can use the regular wheel wrench. Keep the socket hidden in the car.

Adjusting Worn Spark Plugs

After a spark plug has been in use for some time, an arc is usually burned in the

side electrode so that it is impossible to adjust the gap correctly with a flat feeler gauge. This trouble can be overcome by bending the end of the gauge so it will fit into the arc.



(A thin spot in a poor-grade auto casing will cause shimmy because of an excessive flexing at this point; this allows the wheels to tramp and then at a slightly higher speed develop a definite shimmy.

Stubborn Axle Shatts Pulled with Wheel Rim



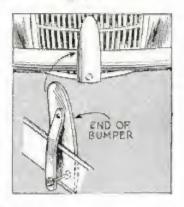
A puller that will remove most stubborn axle shafts is made in a jiffy from an old wheel rim. Enlarge the valve-stem hole to slip over the threaded end of the axle.

Then run on the nut and strike the rim
with a hammer or light sledge as indicated.

—J. Collins, Arlington, N. J.

Radiator-Grille Guard Formed from Old Bumper

A strong radiator-grille guard can be made from the end of an old bumper bar. Just saw off the length desired and bend the attached bracket down. Then drill a hole through the



bracket and lower end of the bumper piece and clamp in place with a bolt.

Venetian Blinds to Dress Up Your Windows



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POPULAR MECHANICS ADVERTISING SECTION

114A 6 5

Let's Go Deeper

(Continued from page 831)

tered oil in older formations at depths of 2,400 to 5,000 feet. Between 1925 and 1932 Spindletop did not have the spectacular gushers of old, but it did produce another 50,000,000 barrels, and it is not yet through.

Recent work in Louisiana and California, illustrates how the geologist is using geophysical instruments—the seismograph, torsion balance and gravimeter—to locate deeply buried or in other ways hidden structures. Proposals to drill 10,000 or 15,000 feet no longer make the driller "bat an eye."

Most of the very deep wells are drilled with a rotary rig—a far cry from the little



Electric locomotive hauling are cars in a deep mine.

Notice the ventilation pipe at right

outfit used by Captain Lucas to present rigs. Excluding derrick and casing, the rig for the Lucas well, including boilers and all equipment, weighed about five tons and cost perhaps \$1,000. The equipment for the deepest well in the world, the Continental Oil company's A-2, in Kern County, Calif., weighed about 7,500 tons and cost in the neighborhood of \$125,000. This well is bottomed at 15,004 feet, and had an initial production of 3,000 barrels a day from sands at 13,085 feet.

As late as 1912 the deepest well in the United States was a 6,004-foot water well in Connecticut. Very few wells were 5,000 feet deep. Now 10,000-foot wells are commonplace, and there are at least a dozen more than 13,000 feet deep, and, most of them are producing oil from depths greater than 13,000 feet.

A few years ago crooked holes were the drillers' "bugaboos." Imagine the friction on a pipe 15,000 feet long being churned into the ground by a rotary rig when the hole is straight. Then try to imagine the additional friction if the hole is crooked! But with modern electrical apparatus, the holes are surveyed and kept straight. Not all, however, are vertical. Many are slanted to drill under towns, under oceans, or to take advantage of underground structural conditions.

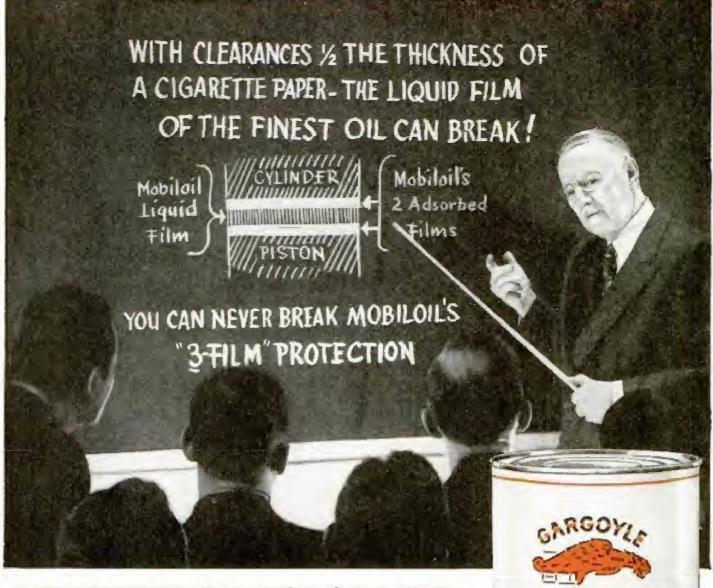
How deep can we go? Well, no one knows; but I, for one, am willing to predict that geologists will locate promising oil structures at 20,000 to 25,000 feet, and if they find them, engineers will drill them!

Now let's take a look at deep mining. First, we want to know how deep the veins go, and, then, how deep can we go? Some veins play out at shallow depth, and, of course, that ends mining as far as they are concerned. Others persist to great but unknown depths. But what about the values in the vein; do they also persist with depth? After the geologist has passed judgment, and he is by no means infallible, it is up to the engineer to go down and see what is there. This may not be as simple as it sounds. The oil man's problems are easy compared with the miner's. With modern technique we can drill a hole, telescoping it downward so it is perhaps four or six inches in diameter at 10,000 or 15,000 feet. But sinking a vertical shaft 5,000 feet or more is easier said than done. Recently one gold-mining company is said to have appropriated \$3,000,000 to drive a vertical shaft one mile deep and equip it with modern hoisting machinery. We don't all have three million dollars to spend, and if we do, we want to know there is enough ore at that depth to warrant the expenditure. So we call on the geologist. He examines the minerals in the exposed vein, and tells us what to do. Sometimes he is too conservative, and we decide to "bet against him." Then the "blood is on our own heads" if we go deeper and fail to find ore.

As everyone knows, the recent "depressions" and "recessions," coupled with pegging the price from \$20.00 to \$35.00 an ounce, have caused a tremendous increase in the search for gold. An old, very rich mine, within eight miles of my desk was

(Continued to page 116A)

Mobiloil Protects with 3 Films



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Oil can be that reason. Especially in hot-running, close-fitting modern motors!

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(Continued from page 114A)

supposedly worked out before 1900. Idle many years, it was taken over recently by mining men who decided to sink it 300 feet deeper. They were rewarded by finding a large rich "shoot."

Perhaps the world-renowned Cripple Creek district is the best illustration of a region where the miners decided to go deeper. The district was discovered in 1891, and the rich gold ore near the surface made millionaires of many miners. By 1906 study of the district discouraged any hope for finding much ore below 1,000 feet. Yet in 1937 the district produced 354,034 ounces of fine gold, which, at \$35.00 an ounce, amounts to the respectable sum of \$12,391,-190. While the ore came from all depths between the grass roots and 2,600 feet, the greater part of it was mined well below the 1,000-foot level.

Steam shovels and other modern machinery are aiding the placer miner, too; but in many places even modern machinery is unnecessary. Manhattan Gulch, Nev., is one. There, in the early part of this century, fortunes were made washing out gold left by streams in near-surface sands and gravel. Now the enterprising

placer miner rigs up a little hoist with an automobile engine for his power plant, sinks a small shaft fifty or sixty feet deep to bedrock, and drives tunnels on the contact of bedrock and the overlying gravels. He hoists gold-laden gravel to the surface and runs it through long sluice boxes to catch the gold, then goes back underground and sweeps up flakes and nuggets of gold from the cracks and irregular surface of the bedrock with a whisk broom!

Our ability to go deeper is a result of modern engineering. We still may find a prospector lifting his ore by the "strong arm" method with a homemade windlass. But near him there may be an up-to-theminute electric hoist dropping the miners and lifting the ore through an electriclighted, concrete-lined shaft at the speed of an express elevator in a skyscraper. Air drills, which run a six-foot hole in six minutes, are rapidly replacing the single jack; electric locomotives are replacing man power and mules for hauling ore. When, at great depths, our mines are too hot for men to work efficiently, we aircondition them. Evidently we are going deeper because we can!

Rescuing America's "Valley of the Nile"

(Continued from page 869)

steamboat and barge navigation far above the city of Sacramento; to afford improved irrigation in much of the Sacramento valley, and to check the seasonal encroachment of salt water into the channels of the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta.

The release of stored waters at Shasta dam will generate a billion and a half kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, a demand for which is definitely in sight. Finally, when the conserved waters of the Sacramento river have performed all of these functions, and have passed every possible user on that river, they will afford a surplus for delivery by canal to Contra Costa county and the lower San Joaquin valley for irrigation.

The next section of the project is the Delta cross channel which will facilitate the fresh-water flushing of delta waterways with Sacramento river water, and the delivery of an adequate supply to the intakes of the Contra Costa canal and the San Joaquin pumping system.

The Contra Costa canal, which is under construction, will extend forty-six miles from the San Joaquin river at Rock Slough to a small reservoir above Martinez. It will afford a constant supply of fresh water for industrial use in manufacturing and processing plants along the south shore of Suisun bay, for domestic use in at least five Contra Costa county municipalities, and for agricultural use in an upland area of orchard and field crops.

The San Joaquin pumping system is the all-important geographical link which integrates the water resources of the Sacramento valley with those of the San Joaquin. It will comprise a series of pumping plants and connecting canals from the delta up the northern San Joaquin valley some 135 miles as far as the Mendota weir on the San Joaquin river west of Fresno. This feature of the project has been described as "making the San Joaquin river run backwards." While this is not strictly

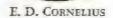
(Continued to page 118A)

"MY STORE BLEW AWAY,

with me in it!"

STORE TAKES OFF IN TORNADO CARRIES STOREKEEPER 200 FEET

1 E. D. Cornelius, of Daisy, Oklahoma, used to run a store near Antlers, until a tornado blew it away, with him in it! He writes:



2 "At ten o'clock the night of June 9th, I was wakened by terrific thunder and lightning. I grabbed a flashlight and started pulling on my clothes. The howl of the wind became a scream. The store began to rock. An avalanche of merchandise tumbled from the shelves... and over she went!





G "Something hit me and I went out like a light—but my flashlight didn't and I still hung on to it. My store landed 200 feet from its foundations, and then went on ...

4 "... but it left me at the first stop. Neighbors who saw my store was gone started looking for me. They found me alive only because the 'Eveready' fresh DATED batteries in my flashlight were still working. I lay battered and unconscious on the bank of a rapidly rising stream. A matter of minutes and I would have drowned. No two ways about it, I owe my life to 'Eveready' batteries, the kind that can take it!



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Unit of Union Carbide III and Carbon Corporation

(Continued from page 116A)

true, the purpose of the San Joaquin pumping system will be to furnish substitute water from the Sacramento river to lands in the lower San Joaquin valley now irrigated by San Joaquin river waters. At the present time practically all of the natural flow of the San Joaquin river is appropriated for irrigation, except in times of flood.

With irrigators on the lower San Joaquin river partly supplied with surplus Sacramento river water, in lieu of some of their present San Joaquin river supply, it will be practicable to conserve a large part of the natural flow of the San Joaquin



Showing how Shasta Dam will appear when completed. Note change in railroad route at left

river at Friant dam, and from there divert it to Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern counties.

Friant dam, 300 miles south of Shasta dam, on the upper San Joaquin river, will be a sizable structure in itself, more than eight average city blocks from end to end along the crest. It will link the Madera and Fresno county hillsides by a straight gravity-section wall of concrete, twenty feet wide at the top, as much as 220 feet thick at the bottom, and 300 feet high from the lowest foundation.

Friant reservoir will have a gross storage capacity of 520,000 acre-feet. Friant dam will have an overflow spillway with a 300-foot crest in the river section, controlled by three movable drum gates on top of the dam. There will be river outlets through the dam regulated by ring-seal

gates and needle valves, and similar outlets to the Friant-Kern and Madera canals.

The largest canal will be the Friant-Kern which will skirt the foothills east of Fresno and Visalia, and will extend 160 miles to the Kern river west of Bakersfield. The canal will have a diversion capacity of 3,500 second-feet to be maintained for the first thirty miles to the Kings river, decreasing to 3,000 second-feet for the section between the Kings river and the Kaweah river, and to smaller capacities beyond. Plans for the first thirty miles call for a bottom width of thirty feet, a water depth of fifteen feet, and a top width at the surface of sixty-eight feet.

The Madera canal, which will extend from Friant dam northerly forty miles to the Chowchilla river, will have a diversion capacity of 1,000 second-feet, decreasing at the Fresno river to 500 second-feet.

A necessary accessory job at Shasta is reconstruction around the reservoir site of thirty-seven miles of the Southern Pacific's main railroad line between Sacramento and Portland, Ore. The new line, thirty miles long, will include twelve tunnels and eight bridges. One of these bridges, in itself, will be a noteworthy structure—a double-deck combined railroad and highway bridge across the Pit River canyon, which is later to be flooded. It will be 3,300 feet in length and the highway deck will be 470 feet above the normal level of the river—almost twice the height of the San Francisco bay bridge roadway above the water of the bay. A railroad by-pass tunnel, 1,820 feet in length, is now under construction at Shasta dam. This tunnel will temporarily pass the railroad under the west abutment of the dam site, enabling foundation and preliminary work to proceed on the dam itself simultaneously with construction of a new permanent railroad line. Another incidental job is the reconstruction of fifteen miles of the Golden State highway.

Conceived more than sixty-five years ago the project will be completed in 1944 or 1945.

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"Freezing" Action in Pictures

(Continued from page 885)

and is practical only with inexpensive cameras with the so-called rotary shutters. Never attempt to change the spring tension. The masking material must be as light as possible since if it is heavy the shutter will move across the lens slowly and give a longer exposure. Use care in replacing the front guard plate exactly in its original position.

If your camera has a focal-plane shutter you can improve its efficiency in getting action shots by holding it properly. Most



Diver, in shade, was caught at one-fiftieth second by waiting for instant of minimum motion

photographers hold focal-plane cameras upright so that the open slit in the shutter snaps downward, no matter what action they are taking. In many cases better pictures would be obtained by holding the camera so that the shutter moves in the same direction as the object. Since the lens has inverted the picture on the film, the shutter travels in the opposite direction to the image inside the camera, materially reducing movement.

Animals are difficult to photograph close up except at speeds of 1/100 of a second or

faster. A stamping foot or a toss of the head just as you click the shutter may spoil the picture if a slow speed is used. One of the hardest places from which to take clear pictures is from a small boat in rough water; the faster shutter speed you can use, the better your pictures. On the other hand, pictures may be snapped of the ground from a speeding airplane at 1/100 of a second or even one-fiftieth, simply because the object being photographed is a long distance away from the camera. Of course, care should be taken not to hold the camera against the window of the

Taking care of your camera is mainly a matter of common sense. Sand in a camera usually means a repair job, as a few grains are apt to work into the shutter mechanism. Shutters should never be oiled. Nearly half the cameras sent to camera hospitals were put out of commission by a drop of oil on the shutter. Cameras should never be dropped since a hard blow is apt to derange the timing gear or

focusing alinement.

plane, to avoid vibration.

The lens should always be kept clean, brushed off with a camel's-hair brush. The best way to clean the glass is with a half-and-half solution of water and alcohol, just enough to moisten a small patch on a clean linen handkerchief. Never use acid, even a weak solution, for cleaning the lens. Even perspiration contains a small amount of acid and it will leave a mark if a finger-print is allowed to remain on the glass.

Cameras that have been exposed to moisture should be wiped off carefully and dried before being put away. A good harness dressing rubbed on the bellows and leather parts helps preserve them. A ground glass may be washed with soap and water. A lens should never be unscrewed and the sun should never be allowed to shine directly into it. In the summer time keep your camera in a cool place and out of the sunlight. Heat hardens the bellows and may result in small leaks.

Practice and a fast camera are important in getting good action pictures. Don't be discouraged if you spoil some film. Professionals spoil plenty. You see only the good ones.

¶Send return postage to our Bureau of Information to learn the name of the maker of any device described in this magazine.

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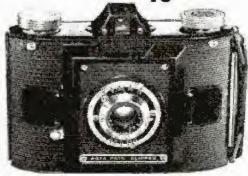
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AGFA CAMERAS



How to Play Winning Tennis

(Continued from page 895)

and unless a player can finish off a point after making an opening he can never hope to defeat any top ranking player. There are two forehand drives, the flat drive and topspin. The flat drive hits the ball squarely in the center with the cross strings pointing directly up and down and following through with the racket head holding this straight up-and-down position. In the topspin the racket meets the ball in the same manner but at the moment of impact the head of the racket turns very slightly to go across the top of the ball. The racket head should meet the ball in the same plane and stay in that plane for the follow through on a flat drive. For the topspin the racket follows through with a slight upward trend. If the body is turned sidewards to the net the feet naturally fall into correct position. The weight should be shifted forward at the moment the racket meets the ball. The body should pivot and not lunge forward. The knees should be slightly flexed and should bend down to the ball.

Besides the forehand drive there are two other shots made from the forehand side after the ball has struck the ground. (Of course if the ball is struck before the bounce it is a volley and is ordinarily played close to the net.) They are the forehand chop and the forehand slice. In making a chop the racket head starts high and is swung down to the ball, meets the ball in back and passes directly under, imparting a heavy back spin. In a forehand slice the racket head starts directly behind where the ball is to be struck, and afterwards passes around to the left.

The most difficult shot for most players to master seems to be the backhand—chiefly because it is practiced least. A player hitting twenty-five forehand shots to three or four on the backhand will naturally become more proficient in his forehand. The backhand drive can be made absolutely flat, with a slight backspin or a slight topspin. Take the backhand grip as explained earlier; spread the fingers up the handle and under no condition point the thumb up the handle. Take the racket back with a circular or a straight backswing, keep the body sidewards to the net and have the head of the racket and the wrist on

(Continued from page 133A)

to my surprise and delight they had no objections. But before we approached Cheran we had visited a famous and beloved Indian woman at a neighboring village and had brought her to Cheran with us. Unquestionably that is why we were well received. In photographing strangers I think friendliness is better than trickery.

Perhaps my most interesting expedition was to the reindeer country of the Tungus north of Lake Baikal. I was accompanied only by Professor Petrie, most famous explorer of all Siberia. Our first destination on leaving the railroad was the town of Kachug on the Lena river, 200 or 250 miles distant, and we were lucky to find a bus leaving for the gold fields. There were no roads on the Siberian steppes; thirty miles north the bus broke down. The driver said repairs might take a week. The Russians took it philosophically, but I couldn't. I suggested a plan to Petrie. We laid a barricade of knapsacks and suitcases at the edge of a gully to blockade any automobile coming our way. By good fortune, a truck came along that night. While Petrie chatted with the driver I roped our luggage on top, and when I gave the signal we got aboard. All night and sixteen hours of the next day we rode the roughest ruts I ever traveled. At Kachug the driver thanked us, rather sullenly, for the tip and dumped us out. We borrowed four horses and two wagons from the Red army and for two days pushed on across the Siberian plains and into the tundra. On the last day the luggage wagon turned over five times.

Now we were stuck not only in the swamp, but in a deep forest. Wagons could proceed no farther. We loaded our packs on two horses and rode the other two. Trees were so close together that the pack horse was always having its load scraped off. I had plenty of time to wonder what would happen if my horse fell in the swamp, in eighteen inches of water, with me underneath. In two hours he did fall five times, but I was able each time to kick free of the stirrups and jump aside. Professor Petrie took it calmly, but it was no picnic to me. Finally I got down and walked. For long miles I sloshed and stumbled through the muck until, two days later, utterly exhausted, we reached our first Tungus village. And this is the story I shall tell in a second article next month.





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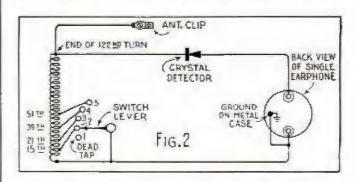
(Continued from page 938)

board, is cut and drilled for the switch which is mounted in one end of the form by means of china cement.

A standard 1,000 or 2,000-ohm single earphone of the type which has a metal



case and cap is available from radio supply houses for less than one dollar; this earphone should be new as most old ones are weak. A piece of wire is bolted to the metal case of the earphone by means of a short machine screw through a hole drilled in the case. This wire is then run to the terminal that is connected to the "ground" end of the coil. The fixed crystal detector



is connected in the circuit with flexible insulated leads and wrapped in cotton or a piece of cloth to keep it from moving about; the earphone is then cemented in the end of the coil form. Photos Figs. 1-B, 1-C and 1-D show various views of the completed assembly. All connections must be soldered carefully. The antenna lead should be a 4 or 5-ft. length of flexible insulated wire and terminate in a good strong clip, preferably of the battery type.





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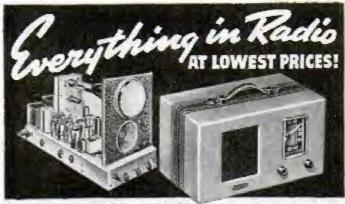
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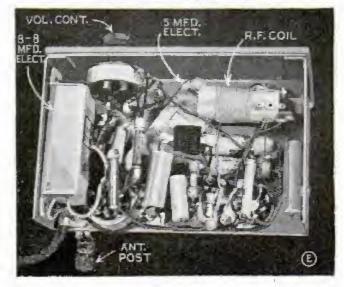
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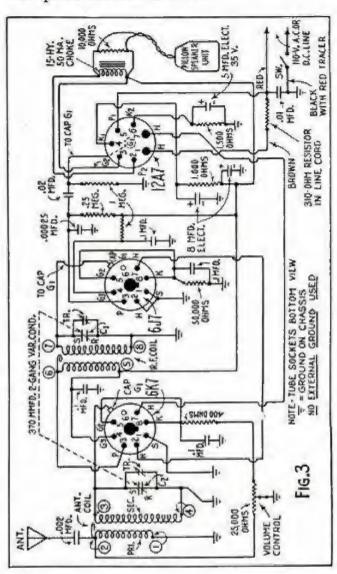


A.C.-D.C. Three-Tuber

(Continued from page 937)



both sides, turn trimmers on one side out as far as possible, and leave them open. A list of the original parts used in the model can be obtained from Popular Mechanics radio department without charge. A 20-ft. antenna of the flexible cloth-covered rollup type may be used for local stations. Blueprint number is R-268.

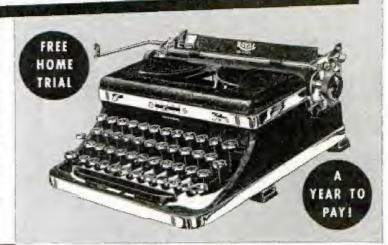




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Below the Ocean's Deadline

(Continued from page 875)

ficient time is not permitted for the gas to escape quietly into the blood and thence from the lungs, bubbles will form in the tissues and blood vessels. The bubbles are most dangerous if formed in the spinal cord and brain, causing paralysis or death. If bubbles form, an additional danger is their tendency to increase in size on further lowering of pressure. There is also the possibility that a number of small bubbles may aggregate to form large ones."

Preliminary experiments with varying proportions of oxygen and helium were conducted on animals with no detrimental effects. When the scientists had worked out a formula of what they considered the correct amounts of oxygen and helium which should be mixed for under-water breathing air. Chief Gunner C. L. Tibbals of the "Falcon" was submitted in a test tank to pressure equivalent to that at an ocean depth of 150 feet. He decompressed himself in fifteen minutes and felt no ill effects. Breathing air was a success.

Captain Craig and Nohl saw the possibilities of breathing air in a great adventure they were planning. Ever since the sunken hull of the "Lusitania" had been located and Jim Jarrat, a diver, had descended 312 feet to reach her in an allmetal diving dress, Captain Craig had planned to enter her hull. So they designed a new type of rubber diving suit especially adapted for breathing air. They constructed a diving helmet which, instead of having limited vision like others, had a heavy circular glass window. The rubber suit was specially fitted with pads to withstand bumps and prevent chafing. When joined to the helmet the outfit could be lowered into the depths by a rope attached to the top of the helmet,

The oxygen and helium tanks were attached to the back of the diver's suit, being carried like a knapsack. In case the diver should be trapped in a sunken wreck, air purifiers and check valves made it possible for him to continue to inhale breathing air until rescued, even if he was not hauled up until several hours later.

Breathing air has about doubled the depth at which divers can work and decreased safe decompression time to a small fraction of that required when ordinary compressed air is used.



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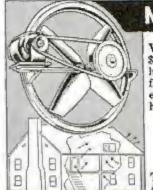
Last summer Boreli made \$3600 gross-Lewis made \$6100 gross-Whitiow made \$2700 gross-Wolters made \$6800 gross-Cox made \$3200 gross-Colet made \$2300 gross. You can make \$1500 to \$5000 gross in 4 months. Don't wait! Get in the money now!



We sell you all the parts for a \$60 store, office or factory cooling fan for as little as \$13.20 and you assemble it yourself. You can make \$10 to \$25 on every sale! Restaurants, stores, offices, factories buy thousands.

20 in. Set No. 1 of parts consisting of 20 in. blade, G. E. motor, plated guard, chromium 643 ft. column, 20 in. floor base, cord, plug and switch.

Hundreds of men found comfortable incomes selling these fans!



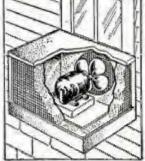
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We sell you all the parts for a \$120 job, that will keep an entire home 10 deg. cooler ALL DAY, for only \$36.91! Every home, every builder, every store is a hot prospect!

30 in. Set No. 2 of parts for a 30 in. attic night fan consisting of quiet approved I plece cast aluminum blade, cast frame, Fafnir bearings, shaft, G. E. motor, pulleys and helt, cord, plug and switch — complete \$36.91.

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Where Humidity is under 45 deg., in summer, desert coolers sell best. A little chicken wire, copper tubing and a cabinet you can build plus our motor and blade units at \$8.40 up will make a unit you can sell for \$50. Every home and business needs them.

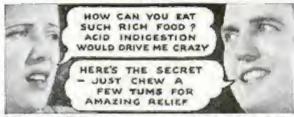
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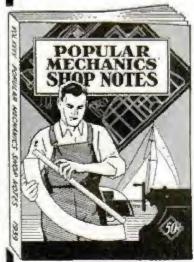
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417 Articles 806 Illustrations 224 Pages Price 50c See partial list contents below

Including the new 1939 issue litustrated above, there are six volumes in the Shop Notes Library of 2400 easily under-stood short cuts to every-day jobs. Here are just a few of the subjects taken from the latest issue:

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Each volume contains approximately 400 articles and 600 illustrations and has 200 or more pages. This unrivaled library of shop helps may be secured for a limited time only. After the present supply of books is exhausted the offer must be withdrawn.

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Hermits of the Air Waves

(Continued from page 853)

which automatically shuts off all voltage. It takes less than two minutes to replace one of these giant tubes.

Twelve technicians, a supervisor, and a building maintenance man form the staff at Wayne and they work in three shifts. The transmitter is off the air from one o'clock in the morning till 6:30 a.m., but work at the plant goes on just the same. In fact, night duty is often twice as hard for the technicians as the day shifts. For it is during the night, when the current is turned off, that most of the repair work must be done.

One of the more curious duties men at Wayne perform is to keep the "Tube Pedigree" file. This consists of a large wooden box, packed with cards, each one of which represents a tube which has been, or is being used in the transmitter. The tube's number, the date it was bought, and the date it was inserted into the transmitter are all neatly typed in red on its individual card. Every morning, the men examine each active card, to determine the number of hours its tube has been in use. The big expensive tubes may last anywhere from 100 to 5,000 hours. When a tube seems nearing the end of its life's cycle, the men remove it during the night hours when the transmitter is off the air, and test it carefully to determine its probable longevity.

Another odd job is the announcing the Wayne technicians do for the short-wave programs of W2XE. A great many of the WABC programs are broadcast to South America and Europe by CBS over its W2XE directional antennas. But in most cases, the announcements for WABC programs are not appropriate for European and South American audiences. So it is up to the transmitter technicians at Wayne to substitute special announcements of their own, and insert them in each program, as it is broadcast.

Night and day, radio programs blare through the echoing rooms of the brick buildings at Wayne. There is at least one loud speaker in every room. But the Wayne technicians have developed a peculiar technique of listening and yet not listening to the radio. They won't be able to tell you what that program is about, unless they

(Continued to page 144A)





NEW — SENSATIONAL —

KEYLESS — ELECTRIC GAS TANK LOCK

Cap unlocks—SNAP'S open by pressing a button on your dash.

Close the cap and it locks automatically. Fully guaranteed. A

MONEY MAKER for Agents and Dealers. Write immediately

for exclusive distributorship proposition. Territory going fast,

SNAP-UP GAS CAP CO.. DEPT. C. ASHLAND, KY.



(Continued from page 143A)

listen to it carefully. However, there's one thing they always notice. And that is, when the programs suddenly stop.

Radio programs coming out of the loud speakers at Wayne very seldom stop. If they do, lightning may have struck the antenna or a tube may have blown out. No matter what happens, it is up to the transmitter technicians to begin working at breakneck speed to repair the damage.

The Wayne plant is equipped with dozens of safety devices to insure the minimum of emergency conditions. For instance, a special pendulum is used in the danger cage, which, when the high voltage is removed by accident, will automatically swing back and put it on again in a second's time.

Last fall a hurricane swept along the eastern seaboard. Among other ruined lines were the power cables feeding the Wayne transmitter of WABC. For four hours not an ampere of current got through to the plant. The men could do nothing except wait around in the pitch darkness, listening to the storm outside, until the power lines were repaired again. Master Control back in New York City switched WABC programs to the transmitter of WNYC, which temporarily broadcast the programs on WABC's frequency.

Once a mouse crawled into the danger cage during the night. When the technicians turned on the current for the day's programs, the animal was instantly electrocuted. But his body caused an arc in the transmitter which shot it off the air. It took the technicians hours to get him out.

The men at Wayne get laughs out of a lot of things too. A few months ago the men discovered that their coupling house, at the base of the steel tower, was "haunted" by WABC programs. Day and night... its steel cage of condensers and coils gives out a faint reproduction of everything that is being played or spoken over WABC. There is no loud speaker in the house, and normally it should be perfectly quiet. A copper rainspout on the outside of the coupling house also gives out WABC programs, when it is touched with a key. A transmitter technician may be a hermit. and far from the beaten paths of radiobut when his steam pipes, his radiator and his coffeepot make music, he can't feel really lonesome.

Spraygun with 'Rifle' Barrel

Shoots Fog into Treetops



Top, sending fine stream into treetops. Below, operator's left hand grips the focusing control

Without any bulbous, projecting nozzle at the end of its "rifle" barrel, a pistol-grip spraygun shoots a fine fog in a straight line under perfect control, varying from a wide cone to a pencil-like stream that breaks into fog as it reaches the treetops. Inside and out, the gun is designed to throw a straight stream without loss of velocity. The focusing control is mounted around the barrel, and a pistol grip operates a stainless steel free ball cut-off.

¶Send return postage to our Bureau of Information to learn the name of the maker of any device described in this magazine.



be foolish.

But we do assert that Chrysler has doubled and tripled the life of engine operating surfaces ... achieved performance so smooth that owners of the 1939 Chryslers say, "These are the greatest motor cars ever built!"

Theoretically, if properly lubricated and kept clean, Chrysler engines ought never to wearout.

For the vital parts of every Chrysler-from brake drums to crankshaft - are Superfinished.

These Superfinished discs are so smooth they adhere together.



Upper: Previous commercial best . . . photomicrograph of lapped surface

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And Chrysler's Superfinish is a new scientific process which finishes motor surfaces to a smoothness as fine as onemillionth of an inch.

Where formerly the finest processes of metal surface fin-ishing left a "fuzz" of jagged edges, Chrysler Superfinish makes surfaces literally as smooth as glass.

There is no "wearing down" of bearing surfaces to get smooth operation in a Chrysler. Quietness and smooth action are scientifically assured. The original close fit of the parts is maintained. Lubrication is

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perfect on a perfect surface.

How Superfinish is accom-plished is a highly technical story. What Superfinish does you can see at a glance.

Superfinish is the greatest protection that can be given your motor car investment...it means better operation, smoother running for many extra years... the longest lived, best running motor you ever handled.

If you are interested in the story of Superfinish, write Chrysler Sales Corp., Detroit, for a handsome, illustrated book and an attractive pocket piece; one side finished by fine grinding, the other Superfinished to the smoothness of glass.

FOR LONG LIFE

POPULAR MECHANICS ADVERTISING SECTION

Training the Big Cats

(Continued from page 861)

that few trainers will work with them.

"The best period to train a tiger," says
Captain Proske, "is when he is between
one and two years of age. Most trainers
will not take them after that age although
I have successfully trained them at five

and six years of age.

"The impulse which people have to poke a wild animal with an umbrella at the zoo somehow reaches a high point with the tiger. And that impulse starts right in the jungle when the cat is captured and natives prod him with sticks.

"It is no wonder then, that by the time a tiger gets into my hands he is even more ill tempered and treacherous than he was in the jungle and regards man as his natural enemy. Further beatings will not help. You can never punish them to a point where you can break their spirit enough to drive treachery out of them.

"Tigers can't just be thrown together and expected to work in harmony. They've got to be introduced. I've worked out a system of scientifically designed cages to make this possible. Each large cage opens out to a long runway where the cats can get acquainted—after they've become used to each other in neighboring cages."

Patience, in a large measure, explains Captain Proske's remarkable success in training the big cats. That, together with the courage to refrain from punishing them and to go into the arena without a chair or big whip to protect himself with.

After Captain Proske has tamed a tiger to the point where he can get it to enter a cage with him and disregard the pedestals and other apparatus, he puts a piece of meat on a slender pole and tempts the cat, moving the pole as he does so. The tiger may climb a pedestal or go over a hurdle after it and in this way he gradually learns his routine and goes through his paces.

The familiar "pyramid" which is the climax of many such acts in this country isn't really a stunt at all according to the captain, while the apparently difficult trick of making a tiger roll over is one of the easiest to learn and he has taught that in less than half an hour.

"A cat will keep its eyes on anything moving—especially if it is low," he says. "I get a tiger to lie down, then place a light whip across its neck and wriggle the end, The cat naturally wants to see what's doing at the end of the whip and so rolls over. After awhile I discard the whip and motion with my finger."

The least treacherous tigers have the brownest eyes, the most vicious have the lightest eyes, says the trainer. A light-eyed Bengal tiger nearly got Captain Proske in Budapest a few years ago when he was showing his act of nine big cats. He was terribly mangled and went to the hospital for six months. No truth in the belief that once tigers have tasted human blood they become man killers, says Proske and he explains:

"Every tiger is a potential man killer, but once a big cat has attacked a man, he gets to realize how helpless a human being is and what easy prey he may become."

When the Sumatra attacked him in Los Angeles, things moved so rapidly the trainer did not get a clear picture of what was happening other than the fact that his manager, Hudson Thomas, got him out.

"I was standing outside of the cage near the bars," recalls Thomas. "Captain Proske works with tigers individually at close range and when he does so with one he turns his back on the others. I watch them and give a low hiss to make him turn quickly if I think it necessary. Most times it isn't, because trainers develop a sort of sixth sense and many times, I have seen the captain wheel around before I was aware of the danger.

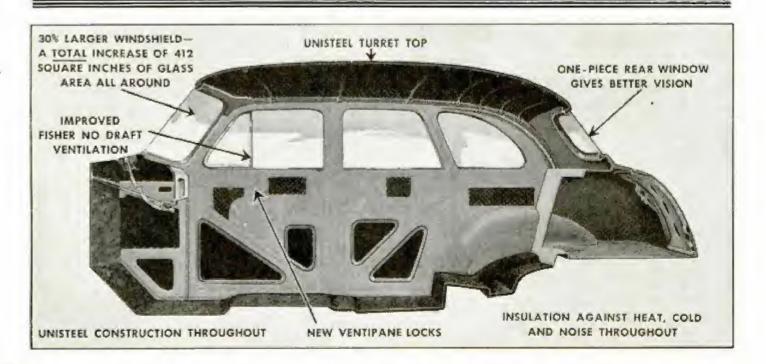
"This time, however, he didn't. He tripped on a loose board, stumbled and in that split second the Sumatra had him by the leg. I fired a blank cartridge pistol at him and the cat let go momentarily. Then the tiger grabbed the captain by the shoulder. I fired more blanks but the cat held on. Frantically I tried to get into the cage, but couldn't budge the door.

"I fired my last blank cartridge at the cat, then threw the gun at him but he wouldn't relax his death-like grip. Then

the other cats piled on.

"Finally I grabbed a feeding fork, thrust it through the bars, prodded the big cats away and jabbed the Sumatra which let go of Proske and slunk into a corner. The captain crawled to the bars under the protection of the fork. Then we opened the door and removed him."

FISHER FACTS



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Note, too, that not only are front scats adjustable two ways—but even the rear view mirror is more efficiently placed to everybody's advantage, regardless of their height.

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Free Catalog

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From Test Tube to You

(Continued from page 805)

electrical-instrument panels, radio cabinets, and gear wheels, supplementing, or wholly replacing, such natural materials as wood, steel and slate. Because of its beauty and fire-resistant qualities, laminated plastic wall board was extensively used in the de luxe staterooms of the liner, "Queen Mary."

One of the latest additions to the plastics family is "Lucite" methyl methacrylate plastic, which is light in weight, substantially unbreakable, water-white, and as transparent as optical glass. This new plastic should find wide application for both decorative and industrial purposes.

In perfume manufacture, materials known as fixatives are employed which cause the odor to be more lasting and pleasing. Until recently all fixatives were of animal origin, such as musk from a Tibetan deer. The characteristic ingredient of natural musk, in a perfectly pure state, would be worth \$40,000 a pound. The research chemist has produced a synthetic musk, substantially identical with the characteristic ingredient of natural musk, though costing only a fraction as much.

Our supply of such metals as gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc is being conserved through improved metallurgical processes. Ores once regarded as too low in metal content to justify working, are being worked by improved processes, at fair profit. Each advance of this kind increases the potential supply of our minerals.

For nearly a century we were largely dependent upon the Chilean deposits of sodium nitrate for "fixed" nitrogen so essential to agriculture and industry. It was known that the natural deposits of sodium nitrate in Chile eventually would be depleted. In 1898, fear was expressed that widespread famine might occur from a shortage of nitrogen for agricultural use.

Within recent years, however, research has developed processes for combining the nitrogen of the air with hydrogen from water to produce ammonia, from which fertilizers and nitric acid are made. Several million tons of nitrogen are extracted from the air each year; all fear of famine has been allayed.

Under Japanese control, camphor at times has reached well-nigh prohibitive prices. Chemical research on the synthesis of this material was finally successful in

developing a process by which surpentine from our southern pine trees is converted into camphor suitable for medicinal and industrial use. The United States now produces a substantial proportion of the total camphor consumption. In an emergency, additional plant capacity could be provided to meet all domestic requirements. Whereas imported camphor cost three dollars and seventy-five cents a pound in 1918, the synthetic product, chemically identical, sells today for approximately thirty-five cents a pound.

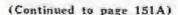
Rubber long has been an essential material for modern life. Recently chemists developed a synthetic material which they have sought over the years, produced from coal, limestone, and salt. It is called neoprene. It serves all the purposes of natural rubber and for many uses, it is superior

to rubber.

Time was when the United States was virtually wholly dependent upon Germany for the potash so essential to agriculture and industry. This no longer is the case, since chemical methods have been devised for producing potash from mineral deposits in California, New Mexico and Texas. In 1936 the United States produced enough potash to supply sixty-five per cent of our consumption. Should necessity demand, we could produce all we need.

Although most of our newsprint paper comes from beyond our borders, the late Dr. Charles H. Herty showed that newsprint can be made from the southern slash pine. Several paper mills are being erected in the south to utilize this new domestic source. The significance of the development is better appreciated when one realizes that our annual consumption of newsprint is more than 4,000,000 tons, eighty per cent of which is imported. Dr. Herty also showed that chemical cellulose, suitable for the manufacture of rayon and "Cellophane" cellulose film, can be made from the southern pine.

Unless the cost of producing a commodity is sufficiently low, there can be no widespread consumption of that commodity. Moreover, the cost must be low enough to compete with similar imported goods. Therefore, the question of cost probably is the most common question asked daily. When the answer to that question is satisfactory to a majority of the public, business prospers and men work at fair wages.





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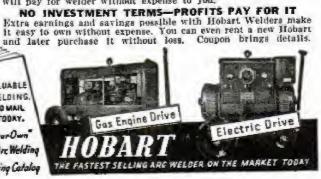
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(Continued from page 149

Cost is the common denominator of our economic system. It fixes the quality of the food we buy, the kind of clothes we wear, the sort of homes we occupy, and the value of the dollars we earn. Economically, we rise or fall on whether or not most of us can afford to pay the price set by the seller, or on whether or not the seller can afford to sell at the price most of us can afford to pay.

Progressive elements of business have long recognized that the cure for many of our economic ills lies in a consistent and honest application of the doctrine of giving more for less. Mass production, socalled, reaching still further, aims at progressively creating more value per dollar with every gain in output.

Suppose we consider a few specific examples of cost reduction through chemistry. In 1924, the price of viscose rayon yarn was approximately two dollars a pound. Today the same type of yarn, though vastly improved in quality, sells at approximately fifty cents a pound. The price of cellulose acetate rayon yarn has declined in twelve years from nearly three dollars a pound to about fifty cents a pound.

In 1925, the price of crude rubber, under foreign control, rose to one dollar and twenty-four cents a pound. Today neoprene sells at sixty-five cents a pound, although it has been on the market only seven years. Today's crude rubber price is much less than the price of neoprene; however, the existence of neoprene assures a ceiling for natural rubber prices. Today's automobile tires give about three times the mileage of tires made fifteen years ago, yet sell for one-third as much.

The rayon example is especially significant, as it illustrates how a chemical advance has affected millions of people, how it has made possible a very wide distribution of one of the good things of life. Before the advent of rayon, the better dresses could be afforded by only a few. Today the American production of rayon, if converted entirely into dress goods, would provide seven dresses for every woman above the age of fifteen.

Technological advance keeps on, and it is a part of our civilization. In this advance, the chemist is playing a leading role -a role that affects not only our personal welfare, but the economy and the security of the nation.



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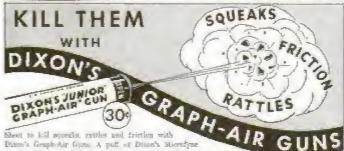


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A Million-Miler at the Wheel of the Highway Limited

(Continued from page 811)

permitted to take out the bus. Always the company is on guard against starting a run unless the driver is in first class physical condition.

I think the bus driver's job is much harder than that of a railroad engineer. We have to take care of tickets, baggage, operation of our "train," comfort of passengers and a lot of other things, while the engineer only has to watch his schedule and run his locomotive. Too, we are always facing traffic conditions that an engineer doesn't have. My job calls for ingenuity, too, in getting the passengers to their destination, or to safety, when the roads get dangerous or a storm makes the going difficult.

Driving a bus at night isn't as bad as the average automobile driver might think. We don't get sleepy at the wheel because we start out in good physical condition. The lights don't bother us because the bus driver's seat is located at a level just slightly above the beam of the average automobile's lights. Too, we get accustomed to meeting other vehicles at night, after about six months of regular driving. Even on the two-lane highways, night driving isn't difficult. We gauge our distance pretty well and stay on our side of the road. I remember meeting one auto driver who must have been asleep at the wheel. He was coming down my side of the road, his car wobbling. I flashed my spotlight on him-and that apparently woke him up, because he immediately pulled over to his side of the pavement.

Operation of night buses, in my opinion, is helping to teach safety to automobile drivers. We always dim our lights when meeting other vehicles and keep them dimmed until we have passed. Auto drivers, after receiving this courteous treatment from every bus they meet, are inclined to dim their own lights, thus helping to make the roads safer for everybody.

Motorists also have learned that the bus is apt to get through in bad weather when automobiles might be stalled or perhaps wrecked if their owners tried to go on their own. Frequently in fog I have completed a run into Chicago with a string of thirty

(Continued to page 154A)



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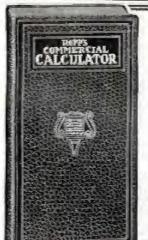
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(Continued from page 152A)

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(Continued to page 156A)

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now used on some western runs. These coaches have large compartments, each with a radio, which are converted into berths at night. There is enough room to stand up straight while undressing. The coaches also have a women's lounge and men's lavatory. Another type of de luxe bus now in operation is fitted with buffet for serving light lunches and cold drinks en route. It runs from Cincinnati, Ohio, to Jacksonville, Fla., with only three stops. Air conditioning and toilet facilities make such a schedule possible.

Terminals, too, have been improved. Big, modern depots are being constructed in many cities, and more are contemplated. Rest stops and restaurants on our routes are being renovated, or rebuilt, in order that our passengers may have the very best facilities. The bus lines are attracting more and more passengers, so they are preparing to handle them efficiently, as well as satisfactorily. And the taxes that our company pays, approximately \$3,000 per year for each of nearly 4,000 buses-\$450 a year for every mile of highway over which the line operates—probably will have some influence in the matter of giving the public wider and safer roads in the future.

We learn a lot of tricks at the wheel of the bus that we find handy in driving our own automobiles, such as "sanding the brakes" to prevent skidding on slippery surfaces. This consists of feeding a little gas to the motor with the right foot and applying the brakes gently with the other, thus stopping the car against the pull of the motor. The practice of watching every other driver on the road, thus being ready for any emergency, is something else that we carry from our jobs into our private lives. Perhaps the most important thing that I have learned in driving one million miles without an accident is this:

"Never lose your temper. Give the other fellow a break, and sooner or later, he will give you a break on the road. And that will make driving easier and safer for every man at the wheel."

■Names and addresses of manufacturers and dealers in articles described in this magazine will be furnished by our Bureau of Information upon request accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Binoculars Help Small Camera Snap Distant Scenes



With camera mounted at right eyepiece of binoculars, distant view is brought into focus through left side

Mounting an ordinary miniature camera on a simple frame in conjunction with a pair of binoculars, a photographer has provided himself with a telephoto lens for making pictures of distant views. After carefully lining up the camera lens with the eyepiece, he attached cleats to the mount to keep the instruments in place. Close-up pictures of far-away objects are obtained with an eight-fold magnification.

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Red stream from pill dissolving in body of lure simulates blood from a wounded minnow



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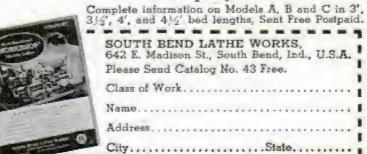
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